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Arab-Israeli Talks

Shahaq on Task of Committees, War With Hamas

TA2204074894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, by Mikha Friedman and Ge'ula Even on 22 April—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Earlier this morning, we spoke with Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks. In our first question, we asked Shahaq to comment on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' assertion in Bucharest that when he and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat perused the understandings reached in Cairo, they also discovered many points of disagreement.

[Shahaq] I assume that at least our foreign minister discovered nothing new in Bucharest, seeing as we had met before his departure and Mr. Peres was briefed in advance on all the points discussed in the negotiations and what we had agreed or disagreed upon. I can tell you what is happening in Cairo, however, and I will also take a moment to comment on the committees. These committees were not established to sit in Cairo; they have nothing to do in Cairo. These three committees were not established on a temporary basis. They are all permanent committees which must operate from Gaza and have nothing to do with the entrance of any party to the area but rather must deal with working procedures inside Gaza, as well as coordination and cooperation between those who will enter Gaza and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops that will remain there.

[Friedman] I take this to mean that the committees will be responsible for translating the understandings in principle reached in the negotiations into practical developments in the field?

[Shahaq] Not only that. The committees will also be responsible for preventing friction and facilitating the best level of coexistence possible in the field on the basis of the agreements reached in Cairo.

[Even] Are they supposed to operate until the final signing of the agreement or until the Palestinian authorities enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

[Shahaq] These committees are part of the understandings reached in Cairo. The establishment of these committees was agreed upon in Cairo, and their job mainly begins from the moment the Palestinians assume authority. Clearly, the committees will be incapable of operating effectively from the first day if they are not situated in the area prior to the transfer of authority in order to familiarize themselves with the area, with us, and with the joint understandings that were reached. We will have to work together for a few days before the Palestinian authority can assume its responsibilities so that the joint committees, which also feature Israeli representatives, will have the opportunity to learn how to work together and cope with problems in the field.

[Friedman] Major General Shahaq, can you give us any new target date this morning for the signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO? Perhaps 5 May, as surmised by an Israeli television correspondent last night?

[Shahaq] I never had any target dates. According to the Oslo agreement, there were certain target dates that we intended to meet but failed. Today, I would rather not mention any dates, because I simply do not know. If we had a date, I would not keep it a secret. There is still work to do. I think that the issues we still have to overcome are neither irresolvable nor numerous. Therefore, barring the emergence of new obstacles or the reopening of issues that we consider closed, and if everything continues the way things went this week—and I see no reason for this not to be the case—the negotiations can be concluded in not too long a period.

[Even] While you were negotiating with the Palestinians in Cairo, the families of the Israeli POW's and MIA's demonstrated and waged a hunger strike. They are demanding a linkage between information on the fate of their children and their release and the release of Palestinian security prisoners held by Israel. Do you accept such a linkage between the two issues?

[Shahaq] I agree that everything must be done on every possible level to resolve the very painful issue of the POW's and MIA's.

[Friedman] Does Yasir 'Arafat have information on the POW's and MIA's that he is not giving us for some reason?

[Shahaq] I cannot say if he has any information. I can safely assume that Palestinian elements have easier access to such information, and I believe they must do everything in their power to not only get this information but also relay it to us. They must do everything they can to resolve this crucial problem. I consider it their obligation under the current circumstances.

[Friedman] Maj. Gen. Shahaq, Israel continues to reject the Palestinian demand to release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners as part of the mass prisoner releases expected within the framework of the agreement. At the same time, Israel conducted mass arrests of hundreds of Hamas activists this week, mainly in the Gaza Strip. What is the point of these arrests if Israel is pulling out of the area completely in several weeks?

[Shahaq] One can also ask why Hamas is continuing terrorist attacks. Israel will continue to fight Hamas as long as it perpetrates terrorism. I believe that a soldier's body was discovered only yesterday, after being murdered, to the best of my knowledge, by Hamas operatives. Israel is at war with Hamas, and this war will continue for as long as necessary.

[Even] Did your interlocutors in Cairo read the assessments prepared by the director of the Shin Bet according to which the Palestinians will start massacring each other as soon as the IDF pulls out of Gaza?

[Shahaq] I did not hear these assessments. I read about them in the newspapers, and I am not sure they are correct.

[Friedman] One more question about Israel's agreement with the PLO: What is the gap between the signing of the agreement in Cairo and the completion of the IDF's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Shahaq] The interim period between the signing of the agreement and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians will take three weeks.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Maj. Gen. Shahaq.

Sha'th, Shahaq Note Progress in Talks

LD2204202794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Nabil Sha'th and General Amnon Shahaq, the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating delegations, have both agreed that progress has been made in the round of talks which was concluded in Cairo yesterday. Dr. Sha'th said that this round has achieved considerable progress despite the difficulty it faced in the beginning. Meanwhile Shahaq said that the round was positive and fruitful and that the two sides were very close to signing an agreement on the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

At their news conferences, they said that the new round which is to start next Sunday will be that last. While Nabil Sha'th expects a final agreement to be signed between 2 and 5 May by the Palestinian president, brother Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, General Shahaq was more reserved and did not give a date for the signing. [passage omitted]

Shahaq said that the two sides are awaiting the results of the meetings of the economic committee in Paris to include them in the resolutions which have been finalized in order to reach a general agreement. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the economic talks in Paris have decided to hold consultations with their presidents because of the obstacles which they cannot overcome through negotiations. Sources in the two delegations said that Avraham Shohat, Israeli finance minister and head of the Israeli delegation to the economic talks, has indeed left Paris this morning for Israel. The official spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Eric Gordan, said that Shohat will attend next Sunday's Israeli cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, Samir Hulaylah, member of the Israeli delegation, said that brother Abu-al-'Ala', director of the PLO's Economic Department, will also leave Paris for Tunis where he is to brief the PLO leadership on the progress of the economic talks.

Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' are expected to return to Paris on Monday afternoon.

The two delegations could not reach an agreement on customs policy and on matters regarding Palestinian manpower.

Sources on 'Expected' Tripartite Meeting 28 Apr

NC2304124194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo expect a tripartite meeting to be held in Cairo on 28 April with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to agree on a date to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement and eliminate the obstacles hindering Palestinian-Israeli talks.

The sources told MENA that if the remaining points of difference are resolved during the coming round of talks that will begin in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday [as received], a summit meeting is expected to be held between 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on 2 May. That summit will discuss an agreement on the area of Jericho, which was left to the two leaders, and the issuance of passports for Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

According to the same sources, the final signing of the agreement will be held under the sponsorship of President Husni Mubarak on 4 May. The signing will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and a representative of the Government of Norway which sponsored the secret negotiations, in addition to representatives from donor states.

Peres is expected to arrive in Cairo on Tuesday evening to follow up the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations closely, together with PLO Executive Committee.

Sha'th Previews Talks With Israeli Delegation

NC2404140794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho talks, has affirmed that the Palestinian side is ready during the current round of negotiations to reach an agreement on the outstanding points concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He added that agreement would depend on whether the Israeli side intends to finalize the remaining issues this week.

Speaking to reporters today before the start of the Palestinian-Israeli round of talks, Sha'th noted that a date for signing the documents on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement cannot be set before we find out what the Israeli delegation is bringing with it and whether or not it is really ready to finalize the outstanding issues. Sha'th pointed out that among the issues still under discussion by the Palestinian and Israeli sides are security-related issues such as the legal jurisdiction over Gaza and Jericho, and he noted that the two sides had previously reached a verbal agreement on this matter. He added: We are waiting to see the draft the Israeli delegation is bringing regarding this issue. Sha'th pointed out that there are some paragraphs in the "general agreement" that need to be revised, and the same applies to the question of the release of the Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons.

Sha'th noted that should the Palestinian and Israeli sides reach an agreement during this week's talks, the date for signing the agreement on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be announced next week. He stressed that all this is contingent on the intentions of the Israeli side. He referred in this regard to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks in which he said that the agreement would be signed on 15 May.

Sha'th added that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo at the end of this week. He noted that 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is not confirmed.

Sha'th stressed that no one can pressure the Palestinian side into giving up its rights, even if this means another year of negotiations. He added: If the Israeli side is ready to sign an agreement next week, the Palestinians are ready too. He added: The Israelis must not believe that we are prepared to abandon our rights to meet a specific deadline.

On the recent agreement between Fatah and Hamas, Sha'th said it will open the door for national unity so that a Palestinian national authority can be established on Palestinian territory and an inter-Palestinian peace can be achieved.

Concerning the number of Palestinian detainees to be released by Israel, Sha'th said that this will be discussed with the Israeli delegation in today's meetings.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks in Cairo Resume

NC2404150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli talks to implement the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho resumed in Cairo this afternoon. The talks are chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff. The talks were scheduled to begin this morning but were delayed several hours because the Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo late.

Informed Palestinian sources told MENA that the current round takes on special importance because it will be the last round if the two sides agree on the outstanding issues. The sources said the most important issues that will be discussed in the context of the Security and Legal Affairs Committee is the legal jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho and the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, estimated at approximately 10,000 according to International Red Cross statistics.

Sha'th, Shahaq Hold Closed Meeting

NC2404184194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, today held a closed meeting with General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff. The meeting lasted for one and a half hours.

Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have stated that the talks dealt with the outcome of the previous rounds of talks. Sha'th and Shahaq reviewed the topics that will be discussed by the Security and Legal Affairs Committees during the current round of talks, the sources said.

The sources added that the Sha'th-Shahaq meeting aimed at eliminating any obstacles that might face the negotiations. The meeting also aimed at reaching a final agreement on implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord by the end of this week, the sources added.

Quray' Views PLO-Israel Paris Economic Talks

Discusses Unsolved Problems

JN2204190694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The PLO-Israel economic talks have seen some delay. They realized progress in tourism but have hit snags on the customs and labor force issues. The heads of the two delegations left for Tunis and Israel to consult with 'Arafat and Rabin respectively and will be back in Paris on 25 April. We have asked Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris talks and who is also the head of the PLO Economic Department, about the achievements of the talks this week. He said:

[Begin recording] [Quray'] In this round we realized progress in tourism. A paper has been agreed on. We have no big problems in this matter. The difficult problem which is still unsolved concerns imports and related policies, trade and its effect on the overall economic policy. We have agreed on a principle which I consider to be important and a gain, namely, that there must be an imports policy, a Palestinian customs policy regarding a number of commodities that are basic and important for development and for the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, in terms of pricing, customs tariff, permitting imports, and other things, with the Arab countries and the world. However, we have hit a snag on defining these commodities with Israel. This has been and still is a problem. We hope they will reconsider their position on it next week.

The other topic is the currency and banknotes. Here also the talks stopped at a previous problem, namely, the Palestinian currency and the Shekel, will it be a legal tender [previous two words in English] or a usable currency ['umlat tadawul]. We insist on the term usable currency. I can say that these are the difficult basic points in these negotiations. When we come back we will talk about the other issues.

[Correspondent] During this round, you also discussed the issue of the Palestinian labor force. What have you achieved in this regard?

[Quray'] Concerning this point, we raised the issue of the suffering and pain of our workers because of the closure of the territories and the Palestinian worker's inability to go to work, whether in the occupied territory or in Israel, and the serious reflections of this situation on the overall peace process. We presented this in the previous round and we have repeated this in this round and they showed some flexibility in this regard. They allowed 5,000 workers to return to work. A budget for employment has been allocated for Gaza and the West Bank, about $10 million.

The fact is that this is just some sort of a sedative, it does not solve the problem. Either the employment process is organized or new job opportunities for the Palestinian worker are created within the national economy. Such a creation is our ambition, but it is a very difficult process and will not be realized by mere wishful thinking. It needs construction, projects, infrastructure, and other things. I am not going to discuss economic science here. The feasible issue is for this process to be organized with Israel. This is what we are considering in the negotiations. It has not been decided yet. [end recording]

Notes Key Issues

JN2404174394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PLO's Economic Department head, in Paris, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] In contrast to the headway the political talks in Cairo are making, the economic talks in Paris seem to be slowing up. Are the differences substantive and of the kind that may preclude a final agreement?

[Quray'] Slowing up may be too strong a word and would suggest there is deliberate foot dragging, which is not the case. We are striving to hammer out an agreement. However, there are key issues that must be thrashed out. Take, for instance, the value added tax, which should not, under any circumstances, be as high as that levied in Israel. We proposed, and Israel rejected, a compromise of 15 percent. There is also the question of the tax deducted from Arab workers, which, incidentally, I don't think is an insurmountable hurdle, since there seems to be an inclination to reimburse the Palestinian authority. There is the more weighty issue of import policies. Israel wants to keep the same customs policies that are in force now under the occupation regime. We are interested in istituting cooperation with Israel, but without the continued Israeli domination of the Palestinian economy. The Palestinians must enjoy free and independent decisionmaking. In this area, we proposed a reasonable formula which they have rejected. We drew up a list of goods the Palestinian authority would import from the Arab markets, but we have not been able to work out an agreement. For us, this is an important issue, since we are a part of the Arab world. Our strategic heartland is Arab, and so we cannot have a one-way relationship with the Arabs, exporting to them without importing from them. That was a particularly delicate issue.

[Mu'addi] How is it that economic issues are posing a hurdle to an agreement, after the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have come that far?

[Quray'] Important as the other negotiations are, I think that, outside the security concerns, economic issues are the most important. Security and economics are the mainstay of the interim period. If we have kept the media at bay and failed to report on our economic talks on a daily basis, this has not been to belittle them. I regard the economic talks the more important of the two sets of negotiations. We are not talking here just about Gaza and Jericho; the talks are about the entire interim stage covering the areas of industry, agriculture, tourism, finance, and banking. Taken as a whole, these issues are highly important and must receive the attention they merit.

[Mu'addi] Back to the Cairo talks, is 4 May a definite date for signing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Quray'] I cannot be so specific. I think, though, early May should see the Declaration of Principles put in place. The two sides are determined that this happen.

[Mu'addi] Thank you.

[Quray'] Thank you.

Further on 'Sticking Points'

JN2404193294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1729 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', PLO's Economic Department head, by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] At the end of last week's round of economic talks you sounded upbeat. You said the Paris talks have progressed. Are you still in the same optimistic mood?

[Quray'] Despite the crisis that arose during this round, I cannot but be optimistic as I fulfill such a difficult and arduous role in the negotiations. The moment I cease to be optimistic, I must withdraw from the talks. By their nature, negotiations—in particular, the economic talks—are difficult and arduous. We are dealing with an adversary bent on remaining in a dominant position. Then you have the Palestinian side striving to get results. The question of optimism or pessimism, for me, does not arise. In this round in particular, progress was made in the area of tourism, where agreement was reached on a paper. There is not much of a problem there for us. The tough problem that remains is the question of imports and trade and their economic implications. This, despite our having agreed on a principle, which I consider to be important and a gain; namely, the need for there to be an importation policy and a customs tariff policy regulating a number of key goods central to development and everyday life of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in terms of pricing, tariffs, import licenses for commercial exchange with Arab and other states. We could not agree on what these goods will be. We hope the Israelis will rethink their position when we meet next week. Another contentious issue was the bank notes. The talks bogged down over the Palestinian currency and the Israeli shekel—whether the latter would be legal tender or a currency. We insist on it being a currency. These were the sticking points.

[Correspondent] This round also addressed Palestinian manpower. How much progress was made there?

[Quray'] We raised the issue from the angle of the hardships our workers are suffering due to the closure that has barred the Palestinian workers from Israel. That applies as much to the laborers who work in the occupied territories as it does to those who commute to Israel. We underscored the dangerous implications of these measures for the entire peace process. They said there will be flexibility on this matter, noting that some 5,000 Palestinian workers have been allowed back to their jobs and that $10 million worth of funds have been set aside to alleviate unemployment in Gaza and the West Bank. But that will not solve the problem. The Palestinian workers must be engaged in steady employment and job opportunities must be created for them in the context of the national Palestinian economy. To create jobs in the context of a national Palestinian national economy is an ambitious and difficult task that will not materialize by wishing it. It takes preparations and the building of an infrastructure.

[Correspondent] Many Palestinians and some Palestinian factions fear that Israel will dominate the Palestinian economy after the establishment of self-rule. What do you have to say about that fear?

[Quray'] Let me say that such a fear is legitimate but does not have to be our fate at all, and that Israel may desire such a dominance but Israel's desires also do not have to be our fate. Therefore, I can say that these economic talks are the most important of all the Palestinian-Israeli talks because they lay the groundwork for the work of our institutions during the transitional stage. Can these institutions achieve a total Palestinian economic independence through the Palestinian rights they will regain? This is the question. Therefore, I can reassure those who voice their concern, which is legitimate, as I have said, that our negotiating strategy, if realized, will pave the way for economic independence. Let me give an example: It is known that during its early days, the occupation completely paralyzed the economic movement by closing banks, which constitute the lifeline of the Palestinian economy. All these banks were replaced by Israeli banks. All Palestinian, Arab, Jordanian, or foreign banks were closed. This took place in the early days of the 1967 occupation, and Israeli institutions replaced them. This is the situation. Therefore, the Palestinian negotiator should achieve his strategy by taking a first step toward regaining the right to license, monitor, and run the banks in accordance with Palestinian economic plan and structure. I can assert and proudly say that we have regained our right to build a Palestinian monetary and financial institution, which has the right to license, monitor, and run the banks and issue instructions and legislations regarding banking activity in the occupied Palestinian territories. This issue is not an easy one. The second issue, frankly speaking, is part of our policy and our strategy. It is aimed at penetrating the customs wall that has been built around the occupied territories since the early days of the occupation, represented by the customs policy, exports, and trade exchange policy. I also can say that we will not regain our full rights. However, we have penetrated that customs wall by securing the Palestinian right to import from Arab countries. It is we who should define the customs tariff with the Arabs and it is we who should define the policies and the specifications, make assessments and analysis, and conduct all activity pertaining to imports from the Arabs. Thus, this is a penetration in the customs wall. The other issue is with the Arab and Islamic countries. Israel, as well as other countries, usually imports from countries maintaining relations with it. Therefore, the penetration took place when we clarified that the occupied territories are a Palestinian identity and entity and not part of Israel. So, it is we who define the policy of the disengagement process. What is important in our strategy is that through these negotiations, we should achieve disengagement with the Israeli economy, which dominates the Palestinian economy. How can we penetrate the customs, gradually achieve disengagement, and build new rules for relations based on cooperation. There is a very important point, which can only be understood by the Palestinian farmer, namely, the principle of reciprocity in agricultural exports. It has been previously known that the Palestinian market was dominated by the Israeli agricultural products, while the Palestinians were not allowed to export any of their vegetables or fruits to the Israeli market. The new agricultural agreement stipulates the Palestinian right to export to the Israeli market. Thousands of tonnes of vegetables and fruits are destroyed every year because they cannot be marketed. The same also applies to industry. We also have the right to reciprocity and to license the industry that serves and promotes our economy.

[Correspondent] Will there be direct economic ties between the Palestinian entity and the outside, meaning Arab countries such as Jordan and other countries, without passing through Israel, given that the balance of economic and political power is in Israel's favor? Does the Palestinian economy enjoy freedom and guarantees?

[Quray'] Yes. Very lengthy negotiations were held over this issue. The Israelis' logic was that the occupied territories are still within the framework of the transitional period. That is, these occupied territories are not a state and, hence, they should be under Israeli control.

We categorically rejected this logic. In the end, we reached the conclusion that since our relations with the Arabs represent our strategic depth, then we should be allowed to define our relations with the Arabs and build economic relations with Arab countries in all fields according to our own will. This is the conclusion we reached. That is not all. The Israelis refused that we establish relations even with Islamic countries. We also reached agreement on this. Hence, we have the right to establish economic relations with whomever we want. However, I must be clear. There will still be some limitations on everything we want. Phased negotiations and a good and efficient institution will eventually lead to the restoration of all our rights.

[Correspondent] Thank you Abu-'Ala' [Quray'].

Israel, Jordan Confer on Steps Against Hamas

TA2104121394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Jordan will implement significant steps against Hamas members on its territory only if Hamas carries out another murderous attack in Israel.

This has transpired at the end of the talks between Israel and Jordan. During the talks, Israel demanded that King Husayn immediately put a halt to Hamas activity in Jordan. The Jordanian representatives, however, claimed that if they carry out the desired steps in the next few days, this would be construed as Israeli and U.S. intervention in Jordanian affairs. Consequently, they announced that such steps will be implemented only once there is sufficient cause—for example, after another attack is carried out in Israel.

Israeli sources said that Israel had no choice but to accept the Jordanian condition. At the same time, Israel was told that Jordan will gradually implement more long-term steps against Hamas.

Various Dialogue Tracks Detailed

TA2204111994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Senior political elements in Jerusalem anticipated yesterday that the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Jordan's King Husayn in London next week will result in a formula that will resolve the Jordanian-U.S. crisis created by the naval blockade on the port of al-'Aqabah. The elements believe that Jordan will attend the Washington peace talks, which are due to resume in the coming weeks.

This week, Israel and Jordan held daily contacts on various tracks. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, had several telephone conversations with his counterpart Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the chief Jordanian delegate.

In these meetings, Israel sought to learn about the Jordanian stand on the naval blockade issue and to gauge the seriousness of Jordan's threat to suspend the peace talks if its disagreement with the United States is not resolved.

For their part, the Jordanians evinced great interest in the progress of the Israeli-PLO economic talks in Paris. They asked Israel to consider Jordan's positions in various spheres pertaining to the future economic ties between the Palestinian autonomy and Jordan. [passage omitted]

On another track, a periodic meeting on current problems was held at the beginning of this week between Israeli and Jordanian elements. One of the issues on the agenda was the infiltration of opponents of the Iraqi regime into Israel through Jordanian territory.

The track of direct, working-level encounters, which was established many years ago, gathered substantial momentum after the Israel-Jordan peace talks were launched. At present, they are incorporated in the political talks.

Within this framework, a senior Israeli element met with his Jordanian counterpart in Washington several weeks ago. The two exchanged views and assessments on the Middle East situation.

Jordan is more prepared than the other peace process participants to introduce confidence-building measures vis-a-vis Israel and to maintain ties with it on several tracks.

Palestinian Figures View Future of Washington Talks

PM2204143094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih and Ilyas Nasrallah: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Asks About Fate of Palestinian Madrid Delegation"]

[Excerpts] London—A well-informed Palestinian source in the occupied territories has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, present head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace negotiations, suspended since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, failed to persuade any member of the Palestinian delegation that participated in the Washington negotiations before the Oslo agreement to join him in the latest rounds of negotiations, held in a secret location in the U.S. capital in January and February.

The source said that most members of the delegation, which was headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, differ in practice with the present PLO position on the negotiations, and are openly opposed to the declaration of principles agreement reached following the secret negotiations in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, away from the Washington negotiations and without the negotiators' knowledge.

This position has been confirmed in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi himself. He said: "Actually I believe that the task of the declaration of principles agreement reached in Oslo ended the responsibility of the negotiating delegation in Washington. Yes, the delegation's mission ended the moment the Oslo agreement was signed, as our first task was to negotiate the transitional phase."

'Abd-al-Shafi went on: "I did not participate in the Oslo negotiations, nor was I consulted on the Oslo agreement. I personally criticized the agreement and believe it is bad. Because it did not tackle Israel's claims regarding the occupied territories, on the basis of which Israel built the settlements. The outcome of the failure to tackle this issue is clear in the current negotiations in Cairo. The current situation is worrying. And as long as the settlement building process is continuing, the possibility of achieving a just peace is out of the question." [passage omitted]

Asked about his position—as a former delegate—on the current negotiations in Cairo between the PLO and Israel and the agreements they have achieved, Ghassan al-Khatib said: First of all, we are not informed officially—neither as a delegation nor as political forces—of what is happening in Cairo. However, I believe that Israel is retrieving in Cairo what it offered in Oslo. What is happening there is a victory for the Israeli methods which they tried to impose in Washington but failed, such as fragmenting the topics under negotiation into parts isolated from one another. [passage omitted]

Al-Khatib warned that "if the Cairo agreement is implemented, it contains very dangerous time bombs. This is because of the agreement to keep thousands of armed and aggressive settlers, allowing them to move freely in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. This is in addition to the presence of thousands of Palestinian policemen, who will be in an unenviable position in the event of any attack on Palestinian by a settler. Because it will be difficult for them to take a neutral position, and it will also be difficult for them to punish the settlers. Hence the danger of another Bosnia in the Gaza Strip."

Answering the same questions, Dr. [Hanan] 'Ashrawi said over the telephone from her home in Ramallah: "There is no longer a thing called the delegation to the Washington negotiations, because the negotiations are now direct between the PLO and Israel." [passage omitted]

On the way the negotiations are run at present, 'Ashrawi said: "There is Israeli diktat in the negotiations. In my view, the peace process is consolidating Israeli terms and priorities, including the method of separating the people from the land, the employment method instead of geographical jurisdiction, and the continued political blackmail. In brief, the peace process has lost the foundation on which it was launched."

'Ashrawi stressed that she is in favor of correcting the course of the process and intervening in a manner that prevents sliding into discussing the fine details while ignoring the essence. She said that the "form has become more important than the substance." She urged reexamining the entire process and the way it is run.

'Ashrawi attributed the deterioration to world pressures and internal Palestinian political considerations, the political contradictions produced by the peace process at the Palestinian public opinion level, and political orientations in the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Peres at Crans Montana Forum

WA2204115894

For reportage on the visits by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Romania for the Crans Montana Forum, including reports on their talks together and with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, please see the International Affairs section of the 21 April East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian-Saudi Differences Over Yemen, Iraq Detailed

NC2404105394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Apr 94 p 13

[Report by 'Amr Nasif from Cairo]

[Excerpt] A major difference of opinion between Egypt and Saudi Arabia over the Yemeni crisis has hurt relations between Riyadh and Cairo, which an informed Egyptian source has described as becoming serious.

According to the source, Saudi Arabia has always claimed that its unique relations with Yemen make it necessary that all attempts to find a solution to the problem go through Riyadh. The source added that Egypt had remained patient since Saudi Arabia rejected any Egyptian intervention when the crisis broke out. Saudi Arabia claimed to be confident that the parties in Sanaa and Aden were capable of resolving their differences without outside intervention.

The source added that Egypt responded favorably at first but its patience ran out when the crisis became exacerbated in a way that, according to Egypt, threatened the region. It said that some Egyptian Foreign Ministry experts prepared a study on the possible deterioration of the situation in Yemen and came to the conclusion that leaving things as they were could make the situation worse and make some parties push to take the case to the United Nations, which would mean allowing a Western presence in Yemen in the name of international legitimacy, a development that Egypt regards as detrimental to Arab interests.

The source added that Egypt decided to intervene either unilaterally or in coordination with the United Arab Emirates [UAE], particularly as the evidence convinced it that some Arab parties are intent on exacerbating the situation in Yemen and impeding any efforts to resolve it. The source said: Egypt noticed that the Gulf Cooperation Council did not discuss the Yemeni crisis at its recent meeting in Riyadh. Egypt is strongly opposed to undermining Yemen and bringing down its regime because of its stance during the second Gulf war.

The source revealed that another issue, Iraq, has intensified the crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is accusing Egypt of working covertly to improve the atmosphere between Baghdad and some Arab and Western capitals and says that the Arab League's reconciliation initiative is only a back door for returning Iraq to the Arab fold. It added that Saudi Arabia brought up this issue with Egypt several times and stressed that it adopt the Gulf stance, which is opposition to reconciliation with Iraq.

The source did not rule out a possible Egyptian move to raise the level of its diplomatic representation with Iraq as a means of pressure. The source expressed the hope that the cloud marring Egyptian-Saudi relations would disappear and stressed that Saudi Arabia and Egypt need each other.

On the other hand, Arab diplomatic circles are pessimistic about the prospects of Egyptian-UAE mediation between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. These circles expect this mediation to fail for several reasons, the most important of which is that the fundamental problem lies in the struggle for power and not in implementing the "Pledge and Agreement" document. They note that implementation of the document will neither strengthen the unity nor remove the specter of secession. They add that non-Yemeni parties have succeeded in planting fear within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and that this fear has been bolstered by financial aid that has exceeded $1 billion in cash and military aid. These parties, the Arab circles said, gave al-Bid forged reports saying that Salih rigged the elections in favor of his party so he could appear later as magnanimous when he offered the prime ministership, Defense Ministry, and some other noninfluential posts to the YSP so that any future legislative elections would appear to the people to be honest and objective if the lists of the winners or ministers appeared without any southern name.

The circles say that these non-Yemeni parties have stressed to the southern Yemenis that if Egypt's efforts to achieve an Arab reconciliation continue, it will only strengthen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's position, who in his capacity as president has the authority to sign any Yemeni reconciliation with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. The non-Yemeni parties added that this would mean the immediate severance of communications between the Gulf and Aden and that the Gulf prefers to cooperate with the YSP, either through al-Bid's assumption of the presidency of the Republic or through the restoration of the south's independence.

An informed Arab source said that the Gulf parties that have direct ties with intelligence organs there handed al-Bid documents and lists of names that reveal that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's relatives assassinated some YSP members to pull the rug from under the feet of the leadership in the south. It added that these parties stressed to al-Bid that some of those who carried out these operations were half brothers of President Salih on his mother's side. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Ministers Meeting Convened To Discuss Gorazde

BK2304162694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1500 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has convened a meeting of seven-member Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina on 27 April to discuss the deteriorating situation in Gorazde. The contact group comprises the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Senegal and Malaysia.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto two days back had sent a message to the UN secretary general calling for immediate air strikes against the Serbian artillery surrounding Gorazde which is one of the six safe areas declared by the United Nations. The prime minister had also demanded the lifting of the arms embargo on

Bosnian forces. It is expected that Pakistan will strongly present these demands at the ICO foreign ministers meeting.

Egyptian Security Source on al-Jihad's Plans

NC2304125994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 16

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Text] A senior security source at the Egyptian Interior Ministry has disclosed stunning details about terrorist plans to attack public figures and former and current security officials with the use of modern techniques obtained from abroad.

According to the source, 'Adil Siyam, slain leader of the al-Jihad terrorist group, personally supervised the initiation of the group's new members. The latter, the source revealed, underwent a 30-day period of brainwashing, during which each new member was locked in a room and could not leave it until the initiation process was over. The initiation was geared toward bolstering the members' ability to sustain psychological and physical pressure.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim, an accomplice of the slain terrorist, told investigators that Siyam's death is a terrible blow to the group. Siyam was the group's mastermind and the man who held all the strings. The group's members obeyed his orders blindly. One of Siyam's instructions was that members should commit suicide rather than be captured by the police, 'Abd-al-'Alim said.

According to the same source, police success in cracking the terrorist ring came after prolonged monitoring of foreign cash transfers received by local terrorist leaders. The State Security Intelligence Service has been keeping tabs on checks involving considerable dollar and sterling payments to the terrorists.

A vicious plot against Egypt is being hatched abroad, the source said. He added that certain countries are responsible for the terrorist operations taking place here. We have conclusive evidence about this foreign involvement through the confessions of the defendants and the documents seized by the security organs.

Confessions by members of al-Jihad groups shed light on terrorist plans. The terrorists prepared cells in the Bilbays area in which they planned to hold any individuals they may abduct in order to force the government to release imprisoned terrorist leaders. Police have inspected the location of these cells in Bilbays' farmland.

The terrorists also confessed that they planned to rob [al-satw 'ala] a number of key installations, disguised in police uniforms that were found in their possession. Investigation into the case is continuing under the supervision of Public Attorneys Raja' al-'Arabi and 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf-al-Din.

Islamic Group Considers Truce With Government

NC2304190394 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 18 Apr 94 pp 8-11

[Report by Sawsan al-Jayyar, Ibrahim Khalil, 'Abdallah Kamal, Karim Subhi, and Khalid Dawud]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Egyptian State Security has dealt a strong blow to the terrorists' plans for 1994. Behind the success was a major general who learned those plans and tactics by heart and knew how to deal with those who tried to implement them. As a punishment for his competence, he was assassinated five days after the killing of 'Adil 'Awad.

Only a few people knew that Major General Ra'uf Khayrat was the unknown man behind many of the State Security strikes. [passage omitted]

The biggest beneficiary [from Khayrat's killing] are the Muslim Brotherhood members, who described the assassination as the most holy operation since the assassination of President al-Sadat. We will not be surprised by this if we know that Major General Khayrat was among the keenest watchers of the Muslim Brotherhood activities. He considered the group, lying dormant until the right moment comes, to be responsible for much of what is happening in Egypt. Khayrat, a former aid of Major General Fu'ad 'Allam, is of the latter's school, which does not distinguish between a moderate extremist and a non-moderate extremist. He believed the Muslim Brotherhood is still very active, with its secret branches and its members ready for the moment when weapons can be brought out, especially since the organization has open channels to the outside world.

That only a few people knew this fact explains why the Muslim Brotherhood members were happy at the murder of Ra'uf Khayrat, who never took his eyes off them.

A few days after the incident, the extremist Islamic Group began talking once again about mediation, but this time with the support of the Muslim Brotherhood, and under a program that included several points:

—Granting the Muslim Brotherhood and the extremist groups the right to go public.
—Stopping military trials and arranging retrials of cases in which death sentences were passed.
—Releasing all detainees.
—Revoking the order to arrest 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.
—Stopping security pursuits against Islamic Group members.

This time, the mediation proposal was carried by lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat, and it is said that Mukhtar Nuh, his Muslim Brotherhood "counterpart" lawyer, will join him, along with 'Isam al-'Aryan, Fahmi Huwaydi, and leftist lawyer Nabil al-Hilali.

But lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat denied any knowledge of this. He said: "Any media coverage of the mediation will spoil it. There should be no talk about any efforts until results are attained." He explained his proposals at the lawyers congress as a "personal view of how to get out of the dark tunnel." In return, the interior minister, at his press conference, denied any secret contacts and said: "We will not negotiate with killers and criminals."

When a source from the extremist groups was told that a desire for mediation reflects weakness, the source replied: "Even if this is true, we must realize that this is only a phase, after which the brothers will continue their activity. If the request for mediation is understood as a truce, then so be it."

So, it is indeed an attempt to reach a truce, and it is also an attempt to recoup from the blow to the major plan worked out by 'Adil 'Awad's organization, especially since the killing of Ra'uf Khayrat failed to cause the needed confusion.

Writers Claim Al-Azhar Statement Supports Terrorism

NC2304161994

[Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 18 April publishes on pages 18-20 a 3,000-word article by columnist 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah responding to the statement issued by the Islamic Research Council, headed by al-Azhar's grand imam, which denounces secularist writers for casting doubts on al-Azhar's authority regarding Islamic affairs.

Al-Tawilah, who says he learned of the statement with "both astonishment and shock," argues that it "explicitly announces support for extremism and the extremists." He says al-Azhar, by this statement, "has changed its negative stance to one positively favoring the enemies of the nation." Explaining this, the writer notes that the al-Azhar statement, in its attack against secular intellectuals, says that they fight extremism with even more misleading and harmful extremism. This, he says, gives the terrorists an excuse to fight this more misleading and harmful extremism.

Elaborating on this, al-Tawilah states: "All supporters of extremism and terrorism justify terrorist criminal acts by saying that this or that writer said something against religion, hurting the sensitive feelings of those extremist boys and angering those who harbor them in the dark. So they decided to demolish banks, kill scores of men, women, and children, and harm thousands of families." He adds: "The al-Azhar council is using the same justification, giving the terrorists the green light for further terrorism."

Al-Tawilah maintains that Egyptian intellectuals from both the left and right have always respected al-Azhar and highlighted its role in defending Islam and preserving the Islamic heritage. He gives examples of many Egyptian leftist writers and thinkers who highlighted the good image of Islam and served religion in their literature. The problem, he says, is that the intellectuals reject the right of religious authorities to decide what can be published and what cannot. "The difference lies in the fact that we do not want al-Azhar or other religious institutions to impose an executive control over our intellectual activity and mental interpretations," he says. He adds: "That is, we object to al-Azhar making decisions, but accept its making recommendations, giving opinions, and writing reports."

Concluding, al-Tawilah says: "The attempt to provoke a battle between al-Azhar and the Egyptian intellectuals serves only the enemies of Islam, foremost of whom are the extremist terrorists."

In an 1,800-word article on pages 20-21 of the 18 April issue of Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF, writer Ibrahim 'Isa also accuses al-Azhar of supporting terrorism with its statement. The writer begins: "What did al-Azhar leave to the extremists? Once you differ with the extremists and oppose them you immediately, in a blink of an eye, become hostile to Islam, an apostate, an atheist, an infidel, or a rebel against religion; and this is true if you are against anything that leads, for example, to the shedding of your blood, and to them killing you physically and morally!" The writer wonders: "If al-Azhar's 11 April statement was not terrorism, what then is terrorism?"

The writer says that it was the people, not God, that established al-Azhar and legislated the laws that gave it its important role. Al-Azhar, therefore, is not above criticism. "There are no religious institutions in Islam and there is nothing like a 'grand imam.' We, the people, invented the title and put it in our civil law. And we can remove it whenever we want; it is not inspired or imposed by God."

'Isa then challenges al-Azhar to issue a statement explaining what it has done to fight extremism, which has continued to grow over the past 25 years. He notes that al-Azhar has never mentioned extremist material such as 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's books or the audio cassettes containing destructive religious ideas and preaching. Insinuating that al-Azhar has suspicious links with Saudi Arabia and its religious establishment, the writer also wants al-Azhar to issue a statement "explaining in detail its position on the Wahhabi thought" [a fundamentalist sect dominant in Saudi Arabia] and another "on the Arab oil projects that have been established in al- Azhar over the past few years, though I hope sincerely that such projects do not exist."

Bin-Ladin's Associate on Proselytization Bid

NC2304095894

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic on 15 April publishes a 2,500-word report on an interview with a "repentant filmmaker" who became involved with a regional scam that used bribes to lure Arab artists into joining the Muslim fundamentalist movement. The filmmaker, Anis 'Abd-al-'Ati, is interviewed by 'Adil Sa'id.

'Abd-al-'Ati says that he studied film direction at the Cinema Institute in Cairo from 1981 to 1986. He reveals that he made one documentary during his student days that received some media notice. Having left the institute without completing his studies, 'Abd-al-'Ati traveled abroad in search of work:

"After I left the Cinema Institute, I went to Jordan to seek my fortune. Then I went to Iraq. There, I thought of making a film about Saddam Husayn and calling it 'Knight Faces Persia.' I met 'Udayy, Saddam Husayn's son and head of the Olympic Committee in Baghdad. I had with me some newspaper cuttings about my career. 'Udayy was forthcoming. He made me a gift of a Jeep-type vehicle full of books about Saddam Husayn's life and career. However, the peace agreement between Iraq and Iran was signed and the film project was discarded. I decided to return to Egypt."

'Abd-al-'Ati then related an aborted attempt in "a neighboring Arab country" to find a producer for a film about the Palestinian issue. He then traveled to another country, which he does not name, and was introduced to several people in the advertising and recording business. Among them was Usamah Bin-Ladin, the Saudi businessman that Egypt and other countries blame for funding the fundamentalist movement and who currently lives in Sudan. Another was Salih al-Sharif, who owns al-Muslim Recording Company. 'Abd-al-'Ati expresses the belief that Bin-Ladin actually "controls" al-Muslim company and that al-Sharif is just a "front man."

'Abd-al-'Ati, making a 3,000-riyal per month [$600 or $700] working for al-Muslim Company, began to follow the strict dress code and lifestyle favored by his employers:

"Meanwhile, I went regularly to pray and perform religious rites with them. I let my beard grow and donned a shorter dress [a knee-length shirt-like dress favored by fundamentalists in presumed imitation of early Muslims]."

'Abd-al-'Ati then met a friend of his employers, a mosque preacher, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamdan, who asked him to preach in a mosque. In his sermon, 'Abd-al-'Ati spun a lie about himself being a world-renowned filmmaker persecuted by international Zionism. The sermon was recorded and became an immediate hit "all over the Gulf, Europe and America." 'Abd-al-'Ati finds it "regrettable" that the public fell for this "yarn," but bemoans the fact that he "did not receive one cent of the takings."

An acquaintance of Bin-Ladin, whom 'Abd-al-'Ati does not name, then asked him to approach top Egyptian actors and actresses with offers of five to 10 million pounds [$1.5 million to $3 million] if they would renounce their careers and lead a life of religion. 'Abd-al-'Ati says: "He offered to increase the offer if they were ready to reform their ways and renounce their careers."

The same, unidentified, acquaintance then seeks to involve 'Abd-al-'Ati in a wider scheme:

"He then revealed to me an impressive proselytization effort—Bin-Ladin's official scheme. He asked me to take charge of the finances of Islamic groups and to run an office in London for this purpose. He wanted me in this job for two reasons: First of all, being an Egyptian, this would confuse the public as to the identity of the real financiers. Second, they really trusted me.

"Initially, 250 million [currency not specified] were earmarked for that project. From experience, I tell you that most of the money came from people who were unaware of how it would be used, who thought they were just donating to some charity."

'Abd-al-'Ati then fell out with the proselytization racket because he failed to meet their expectations. In one instance, 'Abd-al-'Ati refused to meet with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, because of "fear," which he does not explain. In another, he declines to get involved in a plan to bomb the Cairo synagogue: "I met a man by the name of Muhammad Taha. I still remember his face. He asked me to put him in touch with some of my acquaintances because he planned to bomb the Cairo synagogue, but I refused."

Miffed at this lack of enthusiasm, the Bin-Ladin group sent 'Abd-al-'Ati for further education:

"My punishment was tactical. I received orders to move to another area [not further specified] for nine months of further education in religious matters and to do some soul-searching.

"There, I made the acquaintance of 'Abdallah al-Jilali, 'Abdallah al-Jafir, and Salam al-'Awdah, all of them Bin-Ladin's friends.

"After the nine months were over, I discovered that I was given a one-way exit visa [mughadarah niha'iyah] from the country [not further specified].

"Before I left, one of Bin-Ladin's friends asked me to take some letters to Afghanistan and Pakistan. I then discovered that, with the type of visa I was issued, I could not go back to Egypt or stay where I was. When they asked me to go to Afghanistan I began to fear for my life. I discovered that I was part of a new game and was virtually stateless.

"I got the plane tickets after they explained to me the circumstances that forced them to terminate my residency. My travel itinerary was to take me to Damascus, then Tripoli in Libya. From there, I was supposed to go to [Rached] Ghannouchi, the extremist leader, in Tunisia. From there I was to go to Algeria and then London.

"Once in Syria, laden with heavy suitcases and accompanied by my wife and son, an unexpected thing happened: An air embargo was slapped on Libya. I must have been a bit of a spectacle with my beard, clothes, and a top-to-toe-covered wife. My only option was to go back to Egypt. I was surprised to find that the Egyptians let me into the country without any problem."

Having entered Egypt unchallenged, 'Abd-al-'Ati somehow traveled, also unchallenged, to the "same country" that gave him the one-way exit visa. There, he got another job offer:

"Back in Egypt, I read all that the papers wrote about me and was shocked by the magnitude of the problem I had caused. A few months later, I returned to the same country with my wife and met the same people. They gave me a forged residence permit that I still have here in my pocket.

"I went to give a lecture at an air base and there I met a Sudanese commander named 'Abd-al-Rahim Hammad, who came to collect donations. He offered me a job in the media, through which I would attack Egypt and get paid $20,000. I learned that Bin-Ladin had gone to Sudan."

'Abd-al-'Ati does not elaborate on his rift with the Bin-Ladin scam. He simply states that he returned to Egypt and relates the story of his estrangement with his wife, who went on to marry someone else "having stolen the common-law marriage certificate, a photocopy of which I still keep." This, AL-MUSAWWAR writes, "ends the story of the repentant filmmaker."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Apr

NC2304074594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 12 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Opposition Condemns Arrest of Islamic Preacher al-Sharif
2. Islamic Professor Presents Case Against Mufti Tantawi
3. Human Right Organization Reports Torture of Detainees
4. Trial of AL-SHA'B Journalists Assailed
5. Writers Discuss Dialogue, Urge Muslim Brotherhood Recognition
6. Youths Urged To Reject Anti-Islamic Policies
7. Hamas Attack in 'Afula Praised
8. Al-Ghazali Criticizes Muslims' Reaction to Hebron Massacre

OPPOSITION CONDEMNS ARREST OF ISLAMIC PREACHER AL-SHARIF

An 800-word report by Jamal Imbabi on page two claims that "all parties and political forces in the al-Daqahiliyah Governorate have condemned the arrest of Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif and increasing indiscriminate arrests." Addressing a seminar organized by the Labor Party Secretariat in the governorate, speakers from the Labor Party, the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, and Wafd Party reportedly praise the shaykh's distinguished thought and assail the government for its undemocratic conduct. Dr. al-Husayni Rayhan, member of the Labor Party Executive Committee is cited as strongly attacking the call for national dialogue. He says: "What dialogue are they talking about when a number of sincere people are arrested every day? And they still talk about stability." He adds: "The government, which is now talking about terrorism, is responsible for creating it because it closed all doors to dialogue and change and gave absolute powers to police under the shameless emergency law." According to the report, participants in the seminar issued several recommendations, with the following being the most important:

"Releasing the political and Islamic detainees, including Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif.

"Stopping indiscriminate arrests of Islamic trends supporters.

"Implementing political reforms and stopping violence and counterviolence.

"Setting up a committee from parties and political forces to take care of detainees affairs."

ISLAMIC PROFESSOR PRESENTS CASE AGAINST MUFTI TANTAWI

In an approximately 1,200-word article on page two, Dr. Sha'ban Muhammad Isma'il, head of the Islamic Shari'ah Department in al-Azhar University and member of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, presents his case against Shaykh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the Republic. A court ruling had been issued blaming the writer and two others for libel against Tantawi. The writer says he had always respected and been on good terms with Shaykh Tantawi until the latter ruled that bank interest was religiously lawful and, later, that it is also religiously lawful to import alcohol to sell to tourists and to allow gambling in hotels. The writer says that Tantawi "turned from a dignified man into somebody else" when the writer contested his rulings and asked him why, before he became mufti, he used to say that bank interest was unlawful and that now he had changed his mind. The writer notes how Tantawi published articles in Egypt and abroad full of "attacks against ulema, and especially those who oppose his ideas." He says: "He [Tantawi] went so far as to encroach upon his eminence the grand al-Azhar imam, the Awqaf minister, and the president of al- Azhar university." Because Tantawi passes fatwas [religious rulings] without enough knowledge, the writer says, "a number of al-Azhar university professors sent a memorandum to his eminence the grand al-Azhar imam, in his capacity as the highest Islamic authority, because his opinion in religious matters is binding. They asked him to work to dismiss the mufti from his post in order to preserve the dignity of ulema and to protect the homeland from the sedition that has increased due to his fatwas. His fatwas violate shari'ah and help widen the gap between the youths and the government because the youths—wrongly—think that the mufti implements what the government dictates to him."

HUMAN RIGHT ORGANIZATION REPORTS TORTURE

The paper publishes on page three an approximately 2,000-word report by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization about the state of prisons and how political and Islamist detainees are treated. According to the report, prisoners are often subjected to torture and collective punishment and are deprived of their fundamental rights. "From information it received and testimonies it gathered, the organization noticed that the State Security intelligence controls all prisons where political detainees are kept. Detainees are either tortured in prison or taken to the offices of the State Security intelligence in Cairo or other security agencies in the governorates to be tortured there." The organization became convinced, the report adds, that "security agencies have launched repeated campaigns of collective punishment against prisoners under the pretext of keeping order and maintaining health and hygienic conditions, especially in prisons where detainees or convicts from the political Islam groups are kept." The report says that security forces used tear gas, clubs, whips, and dogs in those campaigns.

TRIAL OF AL-SHA'B JOURNALISTS ASSAILED; CORRUPTION HIGHLIGHTED

The paper features several articles on the interrogation of AL-SH'AB journalists for their campaigns against "corruption" and in defense of freedoms. At the end of an approximately 2,500-word article in which author 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn describes how he was taken to be interrogated and then to prison for an article he had written about corruption in a military factory, Abu-Husayn says: "I wanted to tell my story without discussing its legal dimensions or the contents of the indictment. I only wanted to stress that we will not be intimidated by such restrictions, and we will not retreat from the gains we made in the field of freedom of the press, which is the only field in which we made progress over an entire decade."

—A 500-word article by columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus on page 12 urges Defense Minister Muhammad Husayn Tantawi to investigate "the human rights violations" to which AL-SHA'B journalist 'Abd-al- Sattar Abu-Husayn was subjected. The writer notes that Abu-Husayn was put in a military jail, was interrogated secretly in the absence of the Journalists Association or any lawyer, and remained for two days without anyone knowing his whereabouts or the charge against him.

—In an approximately 3,000 word article on page five, Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad discusses the legalities of court cases against AL-SHA'B. He maintains that the aim of such interrogations is "to frighten writers and journalists so that they will abandon their campaign against corruption and their exposition of the corrupt."

—An approximately 1,300-word article by Muhammad Mutawalli 'Awad on page six maintains that "the vicious onslaught" against the Labor Party is part of "government terrorism" against its opponents. Expressing confidence in the fairness of the Egyptian judiciary, the writer calls on AL-SHA'B journalists not to fear trial. He writes: "They have poured their anger onto the Labor Party and the Islamic trend since the Islamic awakening became a fact not only in Egypt, but also throughout the Islamic world." He adds that the Islamic awakening triumphed even in Turkey, which the infidels took as a model of secular civilization. "The Islamic trend in Turkey," the writer goes on to say, "achieved a dazzling victory in the country's largest cities, Ankara and Istanbul. This made the enemies of God's shari'ah who were educated at the hands of the West, especially the ruling party [in Egypt], go berserk. The ruling party feared the inevitable fate that awaits it when free and clean elections are held in Egypt, elections that are not controlled by the Interior Ministry's computer, the security agents, or bullies. The opposition parties, foremost of which is the Islamic trend represented by the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, will challenge the National Democratic Party to score even a relative success."

—A 700-word article by Ahmad al-Suyufi on page two notes that almost all AL-SHA'B journalists have been interrogated. "We have never known in Egypt's entire history a political group that was pursued and brought before this immense number of prosecutors and courts in such a way," he says. The writer defends AL-SHA'B's policy and says the trials "will not prevent us from adhering to our cause; they will not intimidate us, will not resolve your crisis, and will not provide support for you."

—A related 400-word report by Ashraf Khalil on page one says that the Freedoms Committee of the Journalists Association has called for a sit-in on 14 April "to protest the recent flagrant violations of press freedoms." The committee condemned measures against the AL-SHA'B military editor 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn.

WRITERS DISCUSS DIALOGUE, MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

An approximately 1,500-word article by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn on pages one and two discusses the upcoming national dialogue and conditions for its success. The writer says the dialogue must concentrate on political reforms, as this is "the real beginning for eliminating violence and terrorism." He says participants in the dialogue need to agree on the nature and mechanisms of the political system. Husayn also stresses the need for "a healthy climate" for the dialogue, such as giving the opposition free access to radio and television and abolishing the state of emergency in the country. He contends that "violence flourished and grew in the lab of the emergency law." He adds: "Dealing with the Islamic groups in the logic of a continuous state of emergency has made the situation worse. Issuing a law on combating terrorism is one thousand times better than imposing government terrorism—through the state of emergency—on everybody." Calling for the inclusion of all political forces in the dialogue, Husayn says: "The opposition parties should insist on the representation of the Muslim Brotherhood in the dialogue, and the ruling party should reconsider its position in this regard." Finally, Husayn urges that the issue of corruption be placed high on the agenda of the national dialogue.

—A related 800-word article by Muhammad Jamal Hishmat on page eight says that freedoms should be unleashed so that the dialogue can be held among equal parties. The writer argues: "The terrorism from which all of us are suffering grew and prospered in prisons and detention centers, when freedoms were absent, and when the voice of bullets was louder than the voice of right, justice, and humanity."

YOUTHS URGED TO REJECT ANTI-ISLAMIC POLICIES

An approximately 3,000-word article by Muslim Brotherhood figure Ahmad al-Malat addresses the youth, telling them to raise the banner of Islam and reject corruption. He discusses the problems of the country and maintains that Islam has the solution to all of them. Noting that "Egypt is up to its ears in usury debts" that greatly burden the nation, al-Malat says that the Islamic economic system "can save the country from the chaos of debt, and put the state's economy in the hands of the people, not in the hands of the IMF or the World Bank." Al-Malat then discusses corruption and deviation, saying that while the government fails to take measures against the corrupt, it takes honorable journalists who expose this corruption to court and prison. Turning to other anti-Islamic campaigns, al-Malat says that "the Islamic curricula in schools have suffered under the pretext of enlightenment, the role of al-Azhar in showing people what is good and what is bad for them has been dwarfed, and those who falsely claim knowledge have encroached upon ulema." Al-Malat then urges youths to read Islamic books and literature, to pursue science and knowledge, to propagate the message of Islam, and not to "leave the field to the secularists and infidels." In an implicit criticism of the government's Middle East policy, al-Malat addresses the youths saying: "Do not expect good from those governments that have agreed to remain idle, evaded their responsibilities, sold out the land and honor, and stretched out their hands to God's enemies, befriending them while preventing the owners of the usurped land from defending their lands, as if they were captives on the land of Egypt, unable to bear arms to defend their land and honor. It is as though their cause was not ours, and we are trying to mediate between a displaced people and those who inherited their land, gave it their name, decided that its borders extend from the Nile to the Euphrates, and, moreover, declared holy Jerusalem as its capital." Speaking of the rulers, al-Malat says: "They struck the word jihad from their dictionaries and hid it from children's school books." He urges the youths to rebel: "Tell them that jihad will continue until the day of judgment, and that the youths who sold themselves to God are more eager for death than you are for life." He adds: "Tell them: We will not accept your humiliating life, we will live on the bare minimum, and we will boycott all their industry and trade. We will eat what we grow and wear what we make. We will remain the soldiers of right, and a new Saladin will emerge from among us, avenging wounded Jerusalem so that God's word will remain the highest. Conclude whatever treaties the evil in you may want to conclude, and run after the mirage of peace that will never come, but we will not abide by the treaties you conclude and the restrictions with which you chain our people."

HAMAS ATTACK IN 'AFULA PRAISED

An approximately 2,000-word article by columnist Mahjub 'Umar praises the attack of Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas against Israelis in 'Afula on 6 April. The writer discusses Israel's "repeated massacres" against Palestinians since the establishment of Israel and says that the 'Afula attack "came to shatter their [the Israelis] self-conceit and instill horror in their hearts." He says the attack is a martyrdom-seeking operation, with its hero "opening doors to a great future for his Arab and Islamic nation and his heroic Palestinian people."

AL-GHAZALI CRITICIZES MUSLIMS' REACTION TO HEBRON MASSACRE

In his "This Is Our Religion" 250-word column on page 12, Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali discusses and laments the Islamic situation following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. He notes how the Israelis glorified the attack on Muslim worshipers and how the U.S. President wanted to delay a Security Council condemnation until after the Arabs agreed to go ahead with the peace talks. Commenting on this position by President Clinton, al-Ghazali says: "What do you expect from a man who sat for two hours chatting with Salman Rushdie in support of his freedom of opinion? And what opinion? Insulting Muhammad, may peace and prayers be upon him, and his family." Al-Ghazali then criticizes Arab writers: "Some of them said that the regrettable incident should not stop the peace process! The Arabs have come to their knees begging for peace—which is actually capitulation." He says Muslims were expected to cancel their feasts after the massacre and discuss their plight locally and internationally, but "secret forces" wanted them to forget. Al-Ghazali concludes: "If media in the Islamic countries continue to pursue these treasonous policies, the Islamic world will be on its way to loss."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Apr

NC2304144394

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 15 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Criticizes Emergency Law Extension
2. AL-AHRAM Bans Publication of Fahmi Huwaydi's Column
3. Conference on Minorities in the Arab World
4. Writer Blames Government for Violenc
5. 'Adil Husayn Article Comments on Emergency Law Extension
6. Conference in Support of Palestinian People
7. Rise of Islamic Influence in Turkey
8. Iran Supports Pakistan's Nuclear Program
9. Corruption in Egypt

LABOR PARTY CRITICIZES EMERGENCY LAW EXTENSION

On pages 1 and 7, AL-SHA'B carries a 350-word report on a statement issued by the Labor Party Political Bureau commenting on the People's Assembly's extension of the Emergency Law for another three years effective 1 June 1994. The statement says that "the only justification which the government has made for extending the emergency law is fighting terrorism." The statement notes, however, that acts of terrorism have actually increased and escalated under the emergency law, which goes to prove "that this law is one of the reasons for the growth of the phenomenon of terrorism in Egypt." The statement adds that one of the aims of the Emergency Law is to "weaken the opposition forces" in the coming People's Assembly and local councils elections. The statement further notes that this law "conflicts" with the government's call for a national dialogue.

AL-AHRAM BANS PUBLICATION OF FAHMI HUWAYDI'S COLUMN

AL-SHA'B carries a front-page 50-word report that "a column by Fahmi Huwaydi that the newspaper AL-AHRAM publishes regularly every Tuesday has been banned." The reports adds that the banning of the column "Dialogue on the Application of the Shar'iah" comes in the wake of the recent campaign against this writer, a campaign that has culminated in the publication of two articles in Al-ARAM by two of Huwaydi's colleages.

CONFERENCE ON MINORITIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

A 250-word report on pages 1 and 7 says Sudan has officially asked Egypt to prevent the holding of a conference on "Minorities in the Arab World" due to be held in Cairo in May. The conference has been called at the urging of the rebel leaders in Southern Sudan. A letter reportedly sent by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu Salih to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expresses concern over the aims of the conference "in light of the foreign plots and designs aimed partitioning Sudan."

WRITER BLAMES GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLENCE

A 2,000-word article on page 3 by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im says the Egyptian government has resorted to "crude repression" of its political opponents while opting for peace in dealing with the "criminal Jews." The writer says "Egypt is living through the most critical phase of its history," and adds that "for the first time we see Egyptians fighting each other and blood being spilled everywhere." The writer notes that like all the states of the region, Egypt is witnessing "an overwhelming Islamic awakening" affecting all aspects of life and that "society is gradually turning toward Islam." The writer says the Islamic movement in Egypt is the strongest in the region in view of its history and long experience. The Islamic movement "aims to establish an Islamic state." The writer adds that "despite the propaganda campaign against it, the Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah] enjoys widespread support in the quarters where it is active."

'ADIL HUSAYN ARTICLE COMMENTS ON EMERGENCY LAW EXTENSION

A 2,000-word article on page 7 by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn deals mainly with the People's Assembly's extension of the Emergency Law for another three years. Husayn wonders why the People's Assembly hurriedly approved this extension, given that the current law expires in two months. Acknowledging that the extension is a reality and that nothing can be done about it, he asks the Government to adhere to the provisions of this "black law which, despite its ugliness, does not permit the torture of detainees." After noting that torture has become widespread and systematic in Egyptian prisons, he says "this fascistic torture is not allowed by the Emergency Law" and "this continuing detention of the thousands—despite court release orders—is a blatant violation of the emergency law." Rebutting as "misleading" the government's argument that the emergency law is solely intended for use against terrorists and does not target ordinary citizens or political opponents, Husayn cites the "indiscriminate" arrest of citizens and the months-long siege of entire cities. He also cites the arrest and intimidation of citizens who attend opposition party congresses and rallies. Husayn concludes that the continuation of the emergency law since 1981 is not intended to confront "armed violence" but to spread "general fear" and "muzzle" the opposition.

CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

A 500-word report by Khalid Yunis on AL-SHA'B's page 4 says "The Egyptian Committee in Support of the Palestinian People's Struggle" held its second conference at the Lawyers Association on 12 April. Addressing the conference, Labor Party's Ibrahim Shukri said "Israel was planted in the region" to break the Arab and Islamic ranks. He reviewed Israel's "belligerent" practices from its destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor to its attacks on southern Lebanon, noting that Israel enjoys the "absolute support" of the United States, which supplies it with the most sophisticated weapons. Shukri denounced the Arab governments' harassment of the Palestinians regarding their movement and work.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi called "for the need to adopt practical steps to support the struggling Palestinian people." He noted that the PLO-Israeli Government agreement aims at "ending the intifadah at the hands of the Palestinian force which will replace the occupation forces." Al-Hudaybi noted that Egyptian television played down the Hebron massacre while it highlighted the interview with former al-Shawqiyun terrorist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi, whom he describes as an "intelligence agent."

RISE OF ISLAMIC INFLUENCE IN TURKEY

A 250-word report on page 8 says the Islamic Welfare Party in Turkey has organized a huge demonstration in Istanbul to protest the "massacre" of Muslims in Bosnia. The 5,000 demonstrators called on the Turkish Government and the Islamic states to sever relations with the Yugoslav Federation. They also marched to the U.S. Consulate and pelted it with stones. The report notes the Welfare Party's victory in the recent municipal elections in Ankara, Istanbul, and other Turkish towns.

IRAN SUPPORTS PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR EFFORTS

A 500-word report on page 8 by Ayman 'Ali cites a speech that Iranian Consultative Assembly Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri delivered to the Pakistani Parliament recently. Nateq-Nuri said that "the West is trying to put pressure on the Islamic states so that they will remain at its mercy." He affirmed "Iran's support for Pakistan's nuclear efforts," denounced the pressure on Islamabad to abandon its nuclear program, and asked "why is Israel not coming under the same pressure?"

CORRUPTION IN EGYPT

AL-SHA'B carries a 1250-word report on page 9 which says that on 12 April the Youth Committee of the Lawyers Association discussed a paper submitted to it by AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn on corruption in Egypt. In his paper, Husayn says "political corruption" is the most serious because it directly affects society and becomes an example to others and a way of life. He adds that "when the higher leadership entrusted with fighting corruption itself becomes corrupt, society enters a vicious circle." As for social corruption, it is manifested by the spread of financial and administrative corruption in society, which makes it difficult for citizens to earn an honest living. Hence, breaking the law becomes a rule of survival. As for moral corruption, it is similar to political corruption. The state-owned media encourage this corruption, which is apparent in the legalizing of alcohol, gambling, houses of prostitution, and pornographic films. Husayn attributes the spread of political corruption to several factors, the most important of which is the absence of real democracy since 1981. Consequently, a ruling class has emerged that has no clear message and whose only concern is to remain in power. On the ways of stopping the wheel of corruption, Husayn calls for the passing of a law on prosecuting ministers and strengthening the independence of the courts.

Muslim Brotherhood Representative Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud then spoke about the importance of education as a way to reform. This includes training the "soul to fight vice through hand, mouth, and heart." However, he added, it seems that "fighting vice by word of mouth" has become every difficult now that the press has been muzzled and in view of the restrictions on the printing of magazines and publications.

Husayn Jabir Muhammad and Muntasir al-Zayyat spoke on behalf of the Islamic Group. Muhammad noted that the root cause of corruption is the "separation between state and religion and the non-application of the Islamic shari'ah." Al-Zayyat referred to the importance of upholding morals in addition to legal measures to prevent the spread of corruption.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi called on the various parties and trends to put aside their differences and concentrate on fighting corruption.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 19 Apr

NC2404160594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 19 April issue of Cairo 'AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

Contents:

1. Writer Assails Emergency Law, Campaign Against Islamists
2. Detainees Allegedly belonging To Muslim Brotherhood Released
3. British Newspaper's Interview With Shaykh al-Ghazali Cited
4. Muslim Brotherhood Official Notes 'Plots' Against Islam
5. Islamic Conference Warns Of Proselytization Danger
6. Islamist Notes Jews' Policy, Claims

WRITER ASSAILS EMERGENCY LAW, CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMISTS

AL-SHA'B carries on pages one and three of its 19 April issue a 2,800-word article by its chief editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn strongly attacking the government's extension of the Emergency Law and the long-running campaign of arrests and torture, especially against Islamists and Labor Party members.

He says that, while the government claims no one has been affected by the emergency law, Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif is behind bars with no charges made or reason given except that he contradicted the prime minister. In addition, "our colleague" 'Abd-al-Sattar is in the military prison, Husayn writes. He adds that everyone knows that arrest warrants containing no charges have been issued against journalists in past years, including against 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, who was subjected to severe torture. Husayn notes that President Mubarak has not tried for even one day to rule without the Emergency Law, although it would have been in his and the country's interest to try to rule for at least one year without the Emergency Law. Pointing out that over the past years the government has turned toward the use of force instead of persuasion, he says incidents of political violence were rare before the 1952 revolution, but nowadays terrorist attacks are almost daily events.

Reviewing the government's policy of "physical liquidation" and the campaign against the Islamic Alliance which represents "the forces of moderation in the Islamic arena," Husayn says that 180 mosques were stormed by police in 1988 and that in al-Minya, one mosque was stormed 166 times. He says: "While questioning the prime minister and the interior minister at the People's Assembly, I emphasized that the use of the iron-fist policy against the Islamic resurgence will only aggravate the situation; and regrettably this is what has actually happened." He notes that the government's policy of force and arrests led to the emergence of the Islamic movement al-Shawqiyun and prompted al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's shift toward armed struggle.

DETAINEES ALLEGEDLY BELONGING TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD RELEASED

An 80-word front-page report in AL-SHA'B says the Higher State Security Prosecution has decided to release local council members in Dumyat belonging to the Labor Party after a two-month detention. The paper adds that the authorities fabricated charges against them of belonging to an illegal organization, meaning the Muslim Brotherhood.

BRITISH NEWSPAPER'S INTERVIEW WITH SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI CITED

In an approximately 800-word report on page 3, AL-SHA'B cites an article published by the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN on the situation in Egypt, decline in tourism, and Egypt' fear of Islamic resurgence. The newspaper's writer notes that terrorists are not the greatest threat to Mubarak, because the policy of shoot to kill and mass arrests have shaken them. But, the writer adds, moderate Islamists are the ones who are apparently pushing Egypt toward an Islamic state.

The article also includes an interview with Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali. Asked by THE GUARDIAN about his stand on any Egyptian Government that fails to fulfill its duty toward Islam, al-Ghazali says: "If any government fails to do this, then I have the right to call on the people to change that government; and this can be done through the ballot boxes." When asked if there are free elections in Egypt, he replies: "You should ask those who go the polls." Replying to another question, al-Ghazali says: "If you Europeans have forsaken your spiritual leadership, am I supposed to do the same? My answer is no." He adds: "I want my religion to be strong because I want my nation to be strong and able to defend itself. We have been defeated militarily. We are a defeated nation and the only way for us to restore our strength and self-respect is through religion."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL NOTES 'PLOTS' AGAINST ISLAM

AL-SHA'B carries on page 5 an approximately 1500-word article by Deputy Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Mustafa Mashhur noting "foreign plots" against Islam. He says that the conspiracy of the "crusader and Zionist alliance against Islam has never been stronger than it is today" and that the Islamic world has never been weaker than it is today. He adds: "This diabolical scheme—coordinated by the Zionists, crusaders, communists, Hindus, and other enemies of Islam—might make the world seem black in the eyes of Muslims and make them wonder if Islam has any future on earth."

Mashhur says that some people demand a speedy solution because the enemies will not wait but continue their attacks every day. They say if we do not find a solution, the enemies will destroy the Muslims before they can react. But we say that afflictions are grace in the form of calamity, because the early Muslims triumphed over their enemies even though they were a minority and were surrounded by Jews, Persians, and Romans in Mecca and Medina. For example, he says, the Bosnian people were completely lost under communism and most of them forgot Islam but after the tragedy they reverted to Islam, began to fight under the banner of Islam, formed a combatant army, and became more aware of Islam and clung to it so that now their plight has aroused the feelings of millions of Muslims.

He points out: "The enemies' dream of the possibility of destroying Islam and the Islamic awakening will not come true, God willing. Their very tactics of war consolidate, expand, and strengthen the Islamic resurgence." He says that the West has shifted from a religion that opposed knowledge to a knowledge that fights religion, from a religion without culture to a culture without religion, from a religion that exalts the world hereafter to a religion inclined toward materialism, and from a religion that revered God and disparaged man to one that glorifies man and disregards God. Mashhur then argues that Islam alone is what rectifies this disorder because it is a religion that does not fight knowledge and culture, but has produced the enormous scientific progress from which Europe learned in its renaissance. Islam is the religion that founded the most perfect civilization in history.

Under the subhead "The Jews Are Behind Every Corruption and Enmity," Mashhur then writes that the Jews are the killers of prophets who have been behind "every weird, deviant principle." He says they have been behind communism that persecuted and killed millions of Muslims in Russia and behind the downfall of the Ottoman caliphate and the transformation of Turkey into a secular state. Then he notes: "But we see this Islamic renaissance and Islamic voice rising again in the skies of Turkey."

Continuing his criticism of the Jews, Mashhur says the al- Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has revealed the Jews' intentions toward the Muslims but that the "free and proud Palestinian people will not surrender to them." He adds that the Muslims will not leave the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem captive to the Jews no matter how much material force they possess or how much help they gain from hostile powers. "It is the duty of all Muslims to liberate the whole of Palestine. A state that has been established on oppression cannot be stable or survive", he remarks.

Mashhur goes on: "When Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] carried out reprisals for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, we saw Rabin strongly criticizing the king of Jordan for allowing Hamas to operate from Jordan, and we regret Jordan's compliance with his request. It is strange that we should hear that a Zionist delegation participated in a conference in Oman to discuss water issues and in another conference in Qatar on banning nuclear weapons." He adds that the Jews foment sedition and disturbances in Islamic countries and that the Jewish lobby influences the U.S. Congress and President because of their role in his election. He goes on to say: "So the President began to act according to their guidance, speak on their behalf, proclaim Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist entity, provide them with all types of weapons, and allow them to possess nuclear arms which he denies to other countries. But the day will come when the American people realize the danger and damage they incur from supporting this Zionist enemy, which is concerned only in its own interest."

Concluding his article, Mashhur urges all Muslims to be wary and learn from these "predicaments" to distinguish between honest people and liars and to follow in the steps of the Prophet and his companions by having faith, unity, and cohesion. He says they must have faith that "Islam is coming, God willing."

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WARNS OF PROSELYTIZATION DANGER

In an approximately 250-word report on page 7, AL-SHA'B says the international Islamic conference, held at al-Azhar University under the sponsorship of al-Azhar's shaykh, has warned of the danger of proselytization movements, especially the American ones, in Egypt and other Arab countries. He considers such movements to be one of the foreign impediments to Islamic action. The report adds that the conference emphasized that the "resurgence of Islamic and Arab countries from their backwardness is contingent on the application of the Islamic shari'ah, which is the basis of their progress and strength."

ISLAMIST NOTES JEWS' POLICY, CLAIMS In an approximately 350-word article on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali writes that the Israelis aim to expand "whenever they see the Arabs disregard Islam." He says that the Jews claim Egypt as their land [illegible] say that the land on which their ancestors lived must be returned. He then adds: I have the right to ask where are the peace plans the Jews offer to the Arabs?"

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 19 Apr

NC2404123194

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 19 April issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Rector, Scholars Address Islamic Action Conference
2. Awqaf Minister, Ulema Answer Students' Questions
3. Government Spends 200 Million Pounds on Mosques
4. 'AQIDATI Convoy Scholars Explain Islamic Views
5. Writer Urges Awqaf To Allow Preachers Freedom of Expression
6. Writer Slams U.S., UN, NATO Inaction in Gorazde
7. Jordanian Scholar Views Islam, Terrorism

AL-AZHAR RECTOR, SCHOLARS ADDRESS ISLAMIC ACTION CONFERENCE

An approximately 2,000-word report on pages 1 and 11 reviews statements made at the Islamic Action Conference, Present and Future, organized by the Islamic Universities League in cooperation with the al-Azhar Mosque. Addressing the conference, Al-Azhar Mosque rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq exhorts Muslims to "discard their dogmatic disputes, solve their problems, and build themselves" so they can take their place in "the new world order." He notes that divisions among Muslims would lead to destructive wars and negatively affect Muslim minorities in the world. He wonders if the Islamic nation is capable of confronting the "external and internal intrigues designed to sow dissension between the peoples and their governments." Al-Azhar University Vice President Ja'far 'Abd-al-Salam says that what is meant by Islamic action involves all deeds, writings, and moves aimed to teach the Islamic religion and spread Islam so that it will have the upper hand in the Islamic countries. He notes the importance of Islamic action in the media, particularly satellite media, to "spread true Islam" and dispel the "deviant image" of Islam. The media, he says, can do the job that Muslim armies did in the early days of Islam to propagate this religion worldwide. Dr. Muhammad Kamal, head of the Shari'ah College at Alexandria University, warns of the danger of Western information media organs, which convey a "distorted image of Islam and

Muslims and oppose any attempt to correct it." Al-Azhar University professor Ibrahim 'Isa calls for an Islamic preparation of the education curricula in the Arab and Islamic countries. He warns against introducing foreign education curricula because non-Islamic curricula would "entrench the divisions and disarray" among the Arab and Muslim countries and "threaten their identity."

AWQAF MINISTER, ULEMA ANSWER STUDENTS' QUESTIONS

A 500-word report on page 2 elaborates on a gathering at the Law College in al-Minufiyah University between an enlightenment convoy led by Awqaf Minister Mahjub, a number of al-Azhar ulema, and some students. Al-Minufiyah Governor Counselor 'Adli Husayn says that there are "serious phenomena" in Egypt that need debate. He stresses that the youths are living in a time in which the cards have been shuffled, noting that the state should heed and answer their questions. Responding to a question from a student who notes that there are those who maintain that Egypt is an atheist state because it does not apply Islam, a psychology professor at a Cairo university says that the most serious menace is the sedition the extremist factions are trying to foment. He says that they "raise the slogan of Islam to subvert Egypt and strike at Islam." He urges the students to reject the extremists' ideas because their aim is to kindle sedition and not to promote Islam. On the stance of the state and al-Azhar on hostile trends, al-Azhar Mosque scholar Sayyid Sa'ud says al-Azhar is assailed because it refuses to condone the extremists's actions. He notes that al-Azhar will not serve certain ideology, noting that these extremists realize the influence and role of al-Azhar and that is why they assail it.

GOVERNMENT SPENDS 200 MILLION POUNDS ON MOSQUES

A 50-word report on page 2 cites Awqaf Minister Mahjub as saying that the government this year allocated $200 million pounds to build and renovate mosques throughout Egypt. He says that the government will spare none of the funds necessary to make the mosques look befitting the lofty status of Islam and to "purge them of extremism."

'AQIDATI CONVOY SCHOLARS EXPLAIN ISLAMIC VIEWS

The paper features an approximately 2,200-word report on page 4 on 'AQIDATI enlightenment convoy's visit to the city of al-Dakhilah in al-Wadi al-Jadid. In a seminar attended by a large number of the city's inhabitants, al-Azhar scholar Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf stressed that Islam has "nothing to do with terrorism" and that killing innocent people is rejected by Islam. The "evil faction" that does this seeks to "destroy the homeland," he says. 'AQIDATI Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf argues that when youths' issues are broached, we can find no authority or system better qualified to address all aspects of life than Islam. Dr. Haykal says that the "backbone of youths" in Egypt are the "al-Azhar youths." They are responsible for learning and teaching Islam. They are the safety valve of society, who are qualified to dispel the calls for extremism that threaten the nation. On women's work, Dr. Haykal says that there is no verse in the Koran that bans women's work, but, he notes, Islam exhorts women to dress and behave decently. Answering a question on the need for the 1 billion Muslim population to have a befitting standing in the world, Dr. Ibrahim al-Matnawi notes that an Islamic awakening is currently growing worldwide but "malicious enemies" are trying to make it a bloody awakening. He notes that there is great hope that the Islamic nation will unify its ranks and regain its strength.

WRITER URGES AWQAF TO ALLOW PREACHERS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In a 500-word comment by Basyuni al-Halawani in the "With All Frankness" column on page 6, he notes that during President Mubarak's era writers began to enjoy without fear a great deal of freedom of expression. Certain people criticized the state of affairs in the Awqaf Ministry to the minister himself, he says, adding that others criticized Egypt's religious symbols and establishments. He calls on the Awqaf Ministry to allow preachers to express their views freely and creatively and not to repeat mundane and banal sermons so that they may "win credibility" and fight the wave of extremism with "enlightened Islamic thinking."

WRITER SLAMS U.S., UN, NATO INACTION IN GORAZDE

In a 550-word comment titled "No Condolences in Gorazde" on page 10, Majdi Salim says that the Serbs advanced on Gorazde with Russian support, but the United Nations, America, and NATO did nothing to stop them. "The Serbs and Russians act, but the United States, NATO, and the United Nations just talk, " he argues. It seems, he says, that the mission of the UN forces in Bosnia is to protect the UN observers and watch the tragedy but not to protect Gorazde's 60,000 Muslim population from the carnage.

JORDANIAN SCHOLAR VIEWS ISLAM, TERRORISM

In a 2,000-word undated interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, former Jordanian awqaf minister and vice president of the Royal Academy of the Islamic Civilization in Jordan, on page 20, he answers questions on topical Islamic issues. He says that the majority of silent Muslims favor moderation, which is advocated by Islam. He notes that Islam has nothing to do with the acts done by groups that have "deviated from Islam's moderation and tolerance," and have resorted to violence. Discussing recent dialogues on religions between Christian and Muslim scholars, he says that these dialogues helped to clear the image of Islam. He notes that the Vatican instructed the clergy to denounce campaigns against Islam, notably Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." He says that the conflict between Islam and Communism ended with the demise of Communism and disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah, Hamas Reach Cease-Fire Agreement in Gaza

'Arafat, Hamas Officials Coordinate

TA2204174994 Tel Aviv SHISHI in Hebrew 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] In a coordination meeting held in Tunis this month between Yasir 'Arafat and his advisers and senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representatives, a framework for cooperation between the two dominant Palestinian organizations in the territories was worked out.

It was decided that Fatah will pursue the negotiations with Israel in accordance with the Oslo principles, while the Hamas will continue with controlled operations in order to increase the pressure on Israel and facilitate the withdrawal process.

During this meeting, 'Arafat did not call on Hamas to stop the attacks against Israel. Incidentally, the attacks involved are the 'Afula and Hadera attacks, which 'Arafat later denounced.

The cooperation discussed is not of an operational nature, nor does it involve early coordination regarding Hamas operations, seeing that Hamas is an independent organization. The participants could surmise, however, that as far as 'Arafat is concerned, Hamas' approach is also beneficial in terms of achieving the goal: namely, removing Israel from the territories.

Following the meeting the two organizations worked out cooperation frameworks for Gaza, Jericho, and other territories Fatah takes over if and when Israel evacuates them. [passage omitted]

Leaflet on Agreement Distributed

TA2204140894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] A one month-long cease-fire agreement between the Fatah Hawks and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, has been reached in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that a leaflet to this effect was disseminated in the Gaza Strip today. It states that the two sides will halt acts of revenge against collaborators in order to enable them to dissociate themselves from their support of Israel. The two groups will also put an end to mutual acts of hostility and what they term unnecessary strikes. It was also decided to set up a committee to adjudicate conflicts between the sides during this cease-fire period. Our correspondent notes that Fatah leaders in the Strip have not reacted to the agreement, but a Palestinian source says it was reached with the knowledge of senior leaders in both organizations.

Fatah, Hamas Agreement Detailed

TA2404130794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 94 p A3

[Report by 'Amira Hess and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] The Fatah Hawks and Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam group have announced their joint decision to stop killing collaborators for a period of one month, "on condition that during that period all efforts will be directed toward dealing with this phenomenon." They also urge the collaborators to "cut off their relations with the enemy's Shin Bet apparatus." The two groups also forbid all their armed and wanted men to intervene in conflicts between families and organizations, rather to let special reconciliation committees—or when necessary, the political level—deal with such conflicts.

In a jointly signed leaflet disseminated in Gaza two days ago it is stated that the representatives of both sides have held a "historic session" and reached an agreement "aimed at strengthening national unity." The leaflet reiterates that this is necessary in order to foil Israeli attempts to polarize the Palestinian nation. The leaflet details six decisions regarding relations between the two groups and their violent treatment of various problems and social phenomena: To immediately stop mutual recriminations campaigns between Fatah and Hamas, while respecting all parties' freedom of expression; to stop all bloody feuds (which have recently proliferated between members of both organizations); "armed and wanted men from both sides are banned from intervening in conflicts between families and organizations."

The leaflet urges minimizing the number of strikes, limiting their scope (for example, to the neighborhood of a victim only), and in emergencies to jointly declaring a strike. School children are urged not to take advantage of strike days, but rather to stick to their studies and oppose those who force them to strike. The two groups undertake to stop killing collaborators for a period of one month during which they will discuss this phenomenon and give the collaborators an opportunity to mend their ways.

These decisions clearly reflect the growing criticism and dissatisfaction in the Gaza Strip concerning the behavior of the two groups and the terror they strike in people due to their trigger-happy mentality. Declaring a strike as a form of mourning has become a power demonstration method vis-a-vis other organizations, but this disrupts economic life—which is difficult enough as it is. Despite the explicit instruction to continue studies on strike days, many students take advantage of this situation to skip school, and there are many complaints about the deteriorating level of studies.

The intervention of armed fugitives from both organizations in various conflicts has already threatened to develop into bloody conflicts between the two organizations. In the Gaza Strip there is a phenomenon of "piratical confiscation" of vacant lots for enlarging houses or building stalls. In Rafah, for example, Fatah Hawks more than one month ago demolished a building built by Hamas for public ends (a medical center and kindergarten). When Hamas people tried to rebuild it, Fatah Hawks opened fire, killed one person and wounded approximately 25.

Regarding collaborators, people in Gaza tend to believe that people who are murdered by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam are indeed proven collaborators, and that they are not assassinated rashly. At the same time, despite the fact that everybody hates the collaborators, people are concerned about the ramifications of the almost daily killings, about possible "mistakes" and about the danger of vendettas. From various comments made by Fatah and Hamas people alike, it is clear that they too are concerned about the liberty taken by armed fugitives in these issues, mainly Fatah Hawks members. [passage omitted]

Gaza Fatah Leader Describes Agreement

JN2204134994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, an agreement has been reached between Fatah Hawks cells and the cells of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military wing of the Hamas movement. The agreement has been blessed by the leaders of the two movements. On this agreement and its repercussions, Sa'id Mu'addi spoke with Rashid Abu-Shibak, a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip:

[Begin recording] [Mu'addi] Mr. Rashid Abu-Shibak, a leader of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, what does the Hamas-Fatah agreement stipulate?

[Abu-Shibak] The agreement is between the Fatah Hawks and the 'Izzl-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. It has six major points. The first talks about an immediate halt to defamation campaigns between the two factions, while ensuring everybody's right to free expression, as well as holding further brotherly dialogue between the two factions in the interests of the Palestinian masses. The second point speaks about renouncing differences and bloody conflicts and steering clear of the use of violence as a means to resolve differences. This point also emphasizes constructive dialogue between the sons of our people. The third point is that as of the date of this agreement, the pursued and armed men on both sides shall be forbidden to interfere and resolve organizational and family problems. This task will be assumed by national and Islamic reconciliation committees. The fourth point states that in view of the deteriorating economic conditions, it has been decided that a strike in the event of the martyrdom of any citizen shall last only one day in his vicinity. The rest of the areas will declare mourning but will not be on strike. Fifth, male and female students are asked to attend classes on strike days, because we do not want our students to miss classes. Finally, Fatah and Hamas have decided to stop the killing of agents as of the date of this agreement for one month and to declare this one-month period as a repentance period. These are the points of the agreement.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-Shibak, how did the idea of holding dialogue and reaching such an agreement crystallize between the two movements?

[Abu-Shibak] First of all, the idea of holding dialogue has always been one of our traditions in Fatah and also on the part of Hamas. Our dialogue with Hamas has never stopped for one minute. However, praise be to God, our dialogue has this time been crowned by an agreement that will contribute to stopping the suffering of our people as much as possible.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-Shibak, Israeli quarters have voiced concern over such agreements and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said such agreement could affect the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

[Abu-Shibak] I do not think the topic addressed by Rabin has anything to do with the agreement we are talking about. Our agreement with Hamas addresses daily problems and concerns that face Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip. It has nothing to do with a specific political agreement.

[Mu'addi] Can we take the agreement between the Fatah Hawks and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam cells to be a forerunner of possibly another agreement between the leaders of the two movements, Fatah and Hamas, during the self-rule period?

[Abu-Shibak] We hope this will be the case. We will seek a broader and more inclusive agreement between Fatah and Hamas. There is a good chance for such an agreement, particularly since we, along with the brothers in the Hamas movement, very much want everybody to take part in the forthcoming self-rule authority, since this will be for the good of all the Palestinian masses in the future.

[Mu'addi] Was the agreement blessed by the leaders of Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip?

[Abu-Shibak] Yes, completely. We stress this agreement and consider it an important and positive step toward improving our relationship with the brothers in Hamas.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Rashid Abu-Shibak, thank you very much.

[Abu-Shibak] You are welcome. [end recording]

Fatah's Abu-Zayidah Comments

TA2404161294 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, a prominent Fatah official in the Gaza Strip, by Amnon Levi—live]

[Text] [Levi] Fatah and Hamas have signed a cooperation agreement and disseminated it this weekend in a joint leaflet, which deals with collaborators, strikes, and demonstrations. It fails, however, to even mention the peace agreement or Israel. Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, what is this agreement all about?

[Abu-Zayidah] First, this is an internal agreement in the Gaza Strip. It is not related to the peace process, but rather to the internal relations between the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

[Levi] It broaches issues which relate to your daily affairs, such as the issue of collaborators, does it not?

[Abu-Zayidah] Precisely. The leaflet first of all calls for a propaganda lull between the two organizations, and this is a natural thing. It also calls for halting the assassination of people suspected of collaboration—and this is the important thing. I have always struggled against Hamas and the rejectionist front organizations—and within our organization as well—with a view to stop the assassination of people suspected of...

[Levi, interrupting] How many suspects are being assassinated monthly, in your estimation?

[Abu-Zayidah] In the Gaza Strip at least 10-15 people are killed every month.

[Levi] You just find a corpse lying around somewhere in the morning?

[Abu-Zayidah] We find somebody who has been killed because he was suspected of being a collaborator. People are very concerned about this.

[Levi] What about other issues, such as distribution of land?

[Abu-Zayidah] Yes, this issue directly relates to Israeli rule. When the Israelis announced their intention to withdraw soon, people started worrying about what will happen to state-owned land. In the past people who took over state-owned land were fined. Now people have practically stormed these lots.

[Levi] Is this leaflet part of Fatah's efforts to assume authority in the Gaza Strip in anticipation of the withdrawal?

[Abu-Zayidah] We do not regard Fatah as being in authority, but rather the entire Palestinian people.

[Levi] This is a nice slogan, but Fatah will be in control.

[Abu-Zayidah] We want the entire Palestinian people to rule, not Fatah.

[Levi] I read in the newspaper that the Palestinians believe this agreement is historic. Why is it so important?

[Abu-Zayidah] It is important because we are in the midst of a critical period of transition. The entire world, including the Israelis, believe that once the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pulls out there will be a massacre in the Gaza Strip and armed militia, Lebanese style, will roam the streets. Via this leaflet, as well as in meetings held over the last three days, we are trying to prove that this will not happen. The Palestinian nation is mature and will abide by the peace agreement. It will manage to sustain all the internal contrasts.

[Levi] Are you aware of the fact that Israelis are concerned about a Fatah-Hamas agreement, because we regard Hamas as a murderous terror organization?

[Abu-Zayidah] I am aware of this. You have a problem in this respect, because you think that every Hamas member wants to chase you with a knife. The truth is that Hamas represents 30 percent of the Palestinian people. It is in the interest of Fatah, the PLO, and the peace process, that Hamas be included rather than excluded from the Palestinian regime.

[Levi] How is it, then, that you did not include even one clause of support in the peace process, if not in Israel itself?

[Abu-Zayidah] We are constantly exerting great efforts to keep Hamas close to us. We have not succeeded in terms of what you call stopping the armed struggle, because at the present time they do not ask us before they carry out attacks.

[Levi] This weekend the agreement may be signed, and in two or three weeks Gaza could be in your hands. Aside from the great joy, are you also afraid?

[Abu-Zayidah] I am not afraid, but I hope we will succeed.

Further on Abu-Zayidah's Remarks

JN2504121394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1016 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, a prominent Fatah official in the Gaza Strip, by Hasan Abu-Zayid; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] What are the results of the latest Fatah- Hamas meetings?

[Abu-Zayidah] First of all, there is confusion between the public seminars being held in several places and the organizational meetings held on other levels. In any case, these contacts are aimed at unifying all Palestinian ranks. The aim is to prevent the shedding of Palestinian blood, particularly at this transitional phase between the signing and implementation of the agreement. There is no doubt that it is in the interest of the Palestinian people and the interest of the agreement and the peace process to have an agreement between Hamas, in particular, and the forthcoming Palestinian authority, particularly Fatah, which is a basic part of this authority.

However, Israel thinks this rapprochement is taking place at the expense of the peace process. This is completely wrong.

[Abu-Zayid] What about this agreement? How can this agreement be interpreted?

[Abu-Zayidah] If you mean the agreement signed between the Fatah hawks and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam [battalions], then I can say that this agreement is about internal affairs pertaining to the Gaza Strip. These affairs have nothing to do with the peace process, but with events on the ground. Please note that the agreement concerns strike days, the lands supervised by the government, internecine fighting, and the killing of agents. It is in the national interest of all to control these matters. The agreement does not cover support for or rejection of the peace process.

[Abu-Zayid] Will Hamas members participate in the Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Zayidah] As supporters of the peace process and as a forthcoming Palestinian authority, we open all doors and windows to Hamas and the Palestinian opposition in order to participate in building the Palestinian future. However, there seems to be no agreement or firm decision within Hamas itself. There are personal opinions on the extent of Palestinian opposition or Hamas participation in this authority. For example, they do not object to participating in municipal councils or taking part in municipal elections. However, some refuse to take part in the administrative or legislative council elections of the autonomy. In all cases, it is in the interest of the Palestinians as well as Hamas to be part of this Palestinian authority. Otherwise, let it be a democratic, objective opposition. This is the aim of the dialogues and meetings.

[Abu-Zayid] Yesterday, you met for the first time with the Islamic University students, who are considered part of the opposition. What is the significance of this meeting?

[Abu-Zayidah] In my opinion, the meeting was extremely important. It sent a message to the Israelis and the whole world that the Palestinian people enjoy a great awareness and sense of responsibility, that they can shoulder their own responsibility by themselves, and that there will be no bloodbath as soon as the Israeli Army leaves the Strip, as some try to depict it. There will be great love, appreciation, and respect among the sons of the one people even if they have different views. This is the important message of this meeting.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Sufyan Abu-Zayidah from the Fatah leadership in Gaza, thank you very much.

[Abu-Zayidah] Thank you.

Fatah Source on 'Political Agreement'

NC2304143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 23 Apr (MENA)—A prominent Palestinian source from Fatah, the biggest faction within the PLO, has stated that the agreement announced yesterday between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is a "political agreement" that seeks to work out a specific formula for Hamas to participate in institutions of the future Palestinian national authority. The source described it as "more than just an agreement on ceasefire and bilateral differences."

The source, who took part in the recent round of negotiations with Hamas leaders in Gaza, added that Hamas had submitted proposals for participation in the Palestinian national institutions, including the Palestinian police. He pointed out that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat welcomed Hamas' offer and willingness to join the national authority, despite its earlier opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He noted that 'Arafat had accepted in principle the proposals made by Hamas in Gaza. The proposals were also approved by Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the movement's [not further specified] political bureau.

The source stressed that 'Arafat will soon meet Hamas leaders in an Arab capital, probably Amman, to work out a final agreement on Hamas' participation in the Palestinian national authority. 'Arafat, the source added, is convinced that Hamas' new position represents a practical stand on the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. It shows Hamas' desire not to be isolated from the future Palestinian national authority's institutions, particularly since other Palestinian factions, such as the George Habash-led Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have expressed a desire to join them.

The same source said that during in its meeting in Tunis under 'Arafat yesterday, Fatah's Central Committee endorsed the agreement with Hamas.

Hamas Denies 'Shift' in Stance

JN2304082494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 94 p 10

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporters P.V. Vivekanand in Amman and Wafa' 'Amr in Jerusalem]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Friday [22 April] denied that it was signalling a shift in its fundamental approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict by offering to recognise Israel in its 1967 borders and negotiate a peace agreement with the Jewish state.

The group, in a statement issued by its Damascus-based political office, sought to reestablish that its objective was the creation of an Islamic state "from the (Mediterranean) Sea to the (Jordan) River," and that recent comments made by one of its senior leaders were misinterpreted by the media to imply that it was willing to abandon its call for the elimination of the state of Israel.

It appeared that the "clarification" owed its origins to differences from within the group's ranks in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Islamist activists and political analysts in the occupied territories said Hamas' leaders, fearing political exclusion at a time when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are moving towards Palestinian self-rule in parts of the occupied lands, had rushed into making conciliatory statements in a bid to ensure their survival.

As such, Friday's statement was interpreted as a move to reassure those in the occupied territories who in principle reject any recognition of Israel, whether 1948 or 1967, by reaffirminig that there was no shift at all in the group's standing.

Several Hamas leaders said although the conciliatory stand was aimed at preempting isolation, it was also meant to show the Palestinian people that Hamas was capable of achieving better negotiating terms and a peace accord more responsive to the Palestinians' aspirations that the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement.

At the same time, the group's leaders have to take into consideration the opposition such a stand sparked among the young generation of Palestinians.

"Hamas' grassroots, like all the young Palestinian generation, are desperate for independence," a leading Hamas figure told the JORDAN TIMES in occupied Jerusalem. "Therefore any peace proposal suggested by Hamas' high echelon will have to take this into consideration."

Fatah leaders who have maintained a secret dialogue with Hamas affirmed that they were aware of a "change" in the Islamist group's stand and welcmed it because it gave an added momentum to demands for an independent Palestinian state in the territories Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahar, an Islamic leader in Gaza, said the group was "willing to negotiate with Israel to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian lands it occupied in 1967 on the basis of U.N. resolutions. But this does not mean that Hamas has departed from its strategic goal of liberating all of Palestine."

Friday's statement, a copy of which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES, echoed the same sentiment. It said Hamas was committed to "escalating popular resistance and continuing holy war as long as the Zionist occupation forces remain in our blessed Palestinian land and until the liberation of all the occupied land from the sea to the river."

It said comments made by Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the group's politcal bureau, that a peace treaty was possible with Israel if it withdrew from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem did not imply any "concession to or acceptance of the Zionist enemy."

Explaining that the statement was issued to clarify the group's stand "in view of the popular and official reactions" to Mr. Abu- Marzuq's comments, "Which were not seen in their full context or misinterpreted," the group said its "political programme" called for:

—Total and complete unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem;

—The elimination of all settlements and removal of settlers from these areas; (The statement did not refer to Mr. Abu-Marzuq's call for Israeli compensation for the losses Palestinians suffered as a result of occupation.

—Fair, full and free elections among the Palestinian people living inside and outside the occupied territories to elect a leadership which will be the sole authority to speak and take decisions on behalf of the Palestinian people and represent their goals and aspirations.

Here was the key departure of the group from what Mr. Abu-Marzuq had said.

The statement said: "If Hamas manages to win the confidence of the Palestinians, it will express and reflect the will of our people and mobilize popular forces to achieve the full liberation of our land."

(Mr. Abu-Marzuq had referred to the possibility of a "peace treaty" although he did not say between whom).

According to Hamas leaders in the occupied territories, the strategy as outlined in Friday's statement helps Hamas secure a role in the present political process. Without such a strategy, they said, Hamas would be left alone unable to influence the course of political developments.

Shaykh Bahar said the political leadership of the group outside the occupied territories has also taken a decision to participate in elections to the self-rule institutions envisaged under the Israel- PLO accord, but no decision has been taken on how Hamas should tackle the PLO's domination of the autonomy arrangements.

Shaykh Jamil Hamami, another Islamic leader in the occupied territories, said the decision was not acceptable since "participation in elections will give legitimacy to the self-rule authority."

The immediate objective of the group, he reaffirmed, is to "foil the self-rule deal itself."

Palestinian peace negotiator Frayh Abu-Middayn said Hamas had demonstrated political flexibility and pragmatism following the expulsion of more than 300 of its members in December 1992.

He said Hamas' peace overtures were a message directed at the PLO and not at Israel.

"They are telling the PLO we will not sit at the negotiating table with Israel. But we will have a share in the cake by being accepted as partners by the PLO," Mr. Abu-Middayn said.

Political analyst Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi argued that reasons behind Hamas' new stance were:

—If Hamas continued resisting Israeli occupation through rejectionist stances, it will be labelled the number one enemy to Israel and the U.S., and thus will have to pay a price it could not afford.

—If it drew closer to the PLO's political position and participated in self-rule institutions, it would facilitate implementation of the PLO-Israel accord but without granting it legitimacy, and it would isolate the opposition inside the PLO against participation in the Palestinian authority.

Accord Called 'National Achievement'

JN2304200794 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Despite the acceleration of events and the ferocity of dispute in the arena of political negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli enemy, our Palestinian people are confirming, exactly like they have always confirmed, that they are stronger than all conspiracies and attempts to undermine their internal front.

Through their awareness and lengthy experience in confronting the enemy, the Palestinian people have also confirmed that they are always vigilant and capable of replying to enemies' plots, so there will only be room for Palestinian freedom and independence on the liberated land of Palestine.

The Fatah-Hamas agreement on adopting dialogue as the only way to resolve political differences as well as prohibiting the shedding of Palestinian blood at the hands of Palestinians is actually a national achievement by the PLO regarding the solidification of the domestic Palestinian position in the face of the Israeli position that has persisted in beating the drums of Palestinian civil war when occupation ends. It seems as if Israeli malice wants to convince the Palestinians that it is better for them to live under occupation and relinquish the rights to their territories and homeland.

However, the recent Fatah-Hamas agreement in the occupied Gaza Strip came to deal a back-breaking blow to all enemy delusions, allegations, and schemes which primarily aim at undermining the domestic Palestinian situation against the Palestinian national authority in order to demonstrate that this authority lacks eligibility and credibility in administering the areas from which the occupation withdraws, and, consequently, it would be useless and unnecessary to implement any future agreements on expanding both the Palestinian self-rule areas and the Palestinian authority's responsibilities.

This agreement not only contributes to entrenching and consolidating the Palestinian national unity—so it will be a rock on which all enemy conspiracies founder—but it also stresses the bright sides of the comprehensive Palestinian struggle in confronting the enemy and its schemes. This is based on emphasizing Palestinian national principles when democracy is established and when the first and foremost loyalty will be for the homeland and for the interests of its sons, without making any room for differences in political viewpoints. Such differences would be a loophole through which the enemy could penetrate to achieve its objectives and destroy the Palestinian national achievements.

Furthermore, this agreement is a qualitative step in running the conflict with the Zionist enemy. Despite stressing continued struggle until the occupation is expelled from all occupied Palestinian territories, this agreement has stressed the anxiety of the Israeli side by emphasizing both the internal stability in the Palestinian self-rule areas and the devotion to the social and economic tasks assigned to all sons and groups of the people in order to lift the suffering which resulted from occupation and its practices. This is because Palestinian security cannot be achieved amid unemployment and strikes.

Our people, the people of heroism and martyrs, have confirmed that they are deservedly the people of miracles and that they know how to fight their enemies, safeguard their national unity, and entrench and accumulate their national achievements until independence and great victory are realized.

Hamas, Fatah Engage in University Debate in Gaza

NC2404153894 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By Sakher Abu Eloun]

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 24 (AFP)—The fruits of the first accord between the armed wings of Fatah and Hamas were put on display Sunday [24 April] as the fundamentalists invited their erstwhile rivals to a university debate.

The Islamic Resistance Movement asked Fatah representatives to the Islamic university, a fundamentalist stronghold in Gaza City, to address 2,000 students on the forthcoming Palestinian autonomy and the opposition.

"It really is the first time that Hamas has invited us, and what is more to this university to speak to their students," said Diyab al-Lawh, a Fatah leader in Gaza.

"It's a good start to establish relations between the national and Islamic movements," he said after the Hawks and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam announced an official agreement Friday to end internecine fighting and to cooperate for autonomy.

"However we do not want to talk about a honeymoon because that's for marriages and occasionally matrimony ends in divorce," he laughed.

'Ala' al-Nazli, a 22-year-old student linked to Hamas, agreed. "It's the first joint meeting. It was excellent and moving.

"It expresses the unity to which we aspire. We will hold more similar meetings and will maintain our relations with Fatah."

After warm applause for the arrival of three members of Fatah's high committee the debate quickly focused on how the 9,000 Palestinian policemen will treat those like Hamas who have opposed the autonomy deal and the whole peace process.

The opposition fears victimization, particularly by the 7,000 men of the Palestine Liberation Army who will form the backbone of the force and are totally devoted to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Political science lecturer 'Atif 'Udwan, who was deported to southern Lebanon in 1992 as a Hamas member, questioned the impartiality of a police force recruited by the PLO.

"Generally in democratic countries, the police does not belong to any particular side. Will this be the case or will it be an extension of the Israeli police?" he asked

Al-Lawh replied: "The Palestinian authority will be elected by all Palestinians and the policemen who are due to arrive are veteran soldiers who have given their lives to the Palestinian cause and I do not think they will become the oppressors.

"The police will be clean and impartial."

The Israeli government has made no mention of the agreement, after warning the PLO that if it reached an understanding with the fundamentalists which allowed Hamas to continue its attacks on Israelis then the autonomy deal would be off.

Gaza 'Terror' Organizations Hold Meetings

TA2304193394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The heads of most terror organizations in the Gaza Strip have met in Gaza over the last two days. The meetings included Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and rejectionist organizations members. The meetings were held to prepare for the autonomy period. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports the meetings were initiated by PLO officials in the Gaza Strip. The participants discussed cooperation possibilities between the various organizations, with the view of establishing a civilian and security cooperation apparatus after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from the area. The meetings were held against the background of an agreement reached yesterday between 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military arm, and the Fatah Hawks on putting an end to acts of revenge against collaborators and stopping the strikes.

Hamas Statement Reaffirms Opposition to Israel

PM2204141894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas: We Will Continue Operations Against Israel Until the Liberation of Palestine From the Sea to the River"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—In two statements, one dated 20 April and the other 21 April 1994, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) emphasized that its political program does not include "forfeiting a single inch of Palestine" nor does it include "recognition of the Zionist entity's right to exist on our territory."

The first statement was an "explanation" of the statements made by the chairman of Hamas' Political Bureau and carried by some media recently. The second, a more detailed statement, declared that Hamas' military operations will continue "against the occupying enemy...until the liberation of all our usurped Palestinian territory from the sea to the river."

Following is the text of the statement issued by Hamas' Political Bureau on 21 April 1994 under the heading "An Important Statement Issued by Hamas' Political Bureau on the Latest Developments":

"In the light of the political concept proposed by Hamas and in the light of the various official and media reactions to that and the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state, enemy government officials, and officials of other states, Hamas reaffirms the following:

"1. Escalation of the valiant popular resistance, jihad, and military operations against the occupying enemy will continue as long as there is Zionist occupation of our blessed Palestinian territory...and until the liberation of all our usurped Palestinian territory from the sea to the river.

"2. Hamas believes that the current so-called settlement negotiations between the PLO leadership and the Zionist enemy will fail because they are based on the perpetuation of injustice, aggression, and occupation, are held in an atmosphere of Zionist hegemony and arrogance and official Palestinian and Arab weakness, reflect submission and capitulation to Zionist and American terms and diktat, and run contrary to the will of our patient masses and their struggling forces. Hamas also reaffirms its clear position rejecting the feeble autonomy.

"3. Hamas outlined its political concept in a statement issued by its Political Bureau and in statements made by the chairman of its Political Bureau. It was crystal clear, leaving no room for confusion or speculation. Some information media reported it ambiguously and partially, giving the impression that there has been some change in Hamas' policy, programs, and concept of the conflict with the occupying enemy. Some even went too far by trying to interpret Hamas' views to mean that Hamas was offering an initiative for peace with the occupying Zionists or that its views meant recognition of the usurping Zionist enemy, and other such erroneous claims and interpretations.

"4. The Hamas political concept proposed to our people and their struggling forces calls for the following:

"A. Unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

"B. Dismantling and removal of the settlements and evacuation of the settlers from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

"C. Holding free general elections for the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territory] to elect the people's true leadership and representatives. That elected legitimate leadership would be the only party authorized to express the will and aspirations of our people and to decide all the subsequent steps in our conflict with the occupation.

"5. Hamas explained, through statements by the chairman of its Political Bureau, that if, after the general elections to choose our people's leadership, Hamas and its known political program win the confidence of our Palestinian people, then Hamas will express the will of the people and will seek to implement its program for the mobilization of our people's resources, forces, and capabilities and to unite their ranks for the liberation of their territory and holy places. If the election results prove to be different, then Hamas will respect the view of the majority but will adhere to its constant principles and program and work for their fulfillment, and it will express its views most freely and strongly.

"6. The aforementioned statements and declarations did not include what some tried to claim was a Hamas recognition of the usurping Zionist entity nor did they include acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 or abandonment of Hamas' programs and constant genuine Islamic principles which regard Palestine as an Islamic territory which must not be given up, forfeited, or subjected to bargaining."

Hamas Assumes Responsibility for Qatif Bloc Attack

TA2304141594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Hamas has assumed responsibility for the terror attack in Neve Deqalim in the Qatif Bloc today. This was stated in a recorded statement relayed to Qol Yisra'el's Arabic department. [passage omitted]

Hamas Notes 2,700 Palestinians Arrested in 2 Weeks

NC2304195294 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, April 23 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Saturday [23 April] the Israeli army arrested more than 2,700 Palestinians in the last two weeks, but added its militants would still continue to attack Israelis.

These arrests "which affect all those suspected of links to Hamas will not prevent more operations by the (armed wing) 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam nor the popular resistance" against Israeli occupation, Hamas said in a statement to AFP here.

Palestinian sources in the occupied territories have said that the Israeli army had arrested more than 500 militants in a bid to destroy the group after it launched attacks which claimed the lives of 14 Israelis this month.

The mass roundup "comes at a time when the enemy government prepares to release thousands of prisoners who don't belong to Hamas in a bid to divide the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Israel is to set free around 5,000 prisoners after the signing of a final deal to launch delayed Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, which may take place in May.

Israeli negotiators have rejected requests to set free members of Islamic militant groups opposed to peace.

Hamas called on the London-based human rights group Amnesty International "to pressure the Israeli government into freeing immediately the prisoners."

'Arafat Complains About Israeli 'Terrorist Methods'

JN2404102794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (INA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent messages to the heads of the Security Council permanent member states, the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and the secretary general of the Arab League in which he complained about the Zionist entity and the terrorist methods it employs against the Palestinian people and the PLO.

A Palestinian official told an INA correspondent in Cairo that in his written message, 'Arafat said the Zionist entity maneuvers to swallow the Palestinians and to politically liquidate them, and that the PLO has offered the Zionist entity all it asked for.

PLO Asks Fatah To Collect, Store Away Weapons

NC2304080294 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Mahmud Zayyat]

[Excerpt] The PLO leadership has asked Fatah leaders in Lebanon to collect and store weapons in the camps of the south in preparation for their transfer to Gaza and Jericho under Egyptian supervision, an informed Palestinian source disclosed. The source noted that prices of weapons on the world market have gone up.

The source said that Fatah official in Tyre Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, a supporter of Yasir 'Arafat, began collecting weapons in the camps of the region under his supervision.

The source said the move is part of an effort to remove weapons from the camps to influence the Palestinian forces that oppose Gaza-Jericho agreement and paralyze their activity in resisting the Israeli occupation of the south. The source noted that representatives of factions opposing the PLO policy and opposition Fatah leaders led by Colonel Munir al-Maqdah have recently held a series of meetings to escalate military action against the Israeli occupation forces in the south, and even in northern Palestine (Upper Galilee). This was evident in the operation carried out jointly by the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and al-Maqdah group in al-Khardali. Three fighters were killed in the operation.

The source described the collection of weapons and their transfer to Gaza and Jericho as a new card that will be conceded in favor of 'Arafat's capitulatory policy. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi, World Bank Delegation Sign Agreements

LD2204182894 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department and acting chairman of the governors committee, has met with a delegation of the World Bank, led by Ram Shabra.

Brother Abu-Lutf said that the atmosphere at the meeting was positive and that it focused on core issues between the World Bank, as the secretariat of the donor countries [as heard], and the PLO. A number of agreements were signed. They will be submitted to the PLO's Executive Committee. These agreements concern the financing of the temporary working budget of the Palestinian Economic Council of Development and Construction to enable it to continue its work and to implement the plans that have been approved by the Palestinian national authority, the donor countries and the World Bank, as assigned by the PLO.

Brother Abu-Lutf said that a series of coordination meetings between the presidency of the World Bank would take place within the next few days with a view to expediting the execution of the plans agreed on between by the Palestinian national authority, donor countries and the World Bank, and which concern the reconstruction of the Palestinian national economy.

Algeria

Yemeni Envoy Arrives, Views Mediation Efforts

LD2404131694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] President Liamine Zeroual this morning received at the headquarters of the presidency Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni Socialist Party official in charge of foreign relations and special envoy of Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bidh, vice president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, and Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman of the presidency of the Republic.

In a statement to the radio about this meeting, the Yemeni envoy said:

[Begin al-Dali recording] I was asked by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bidh, vice president of the Yemeni Presidential Council, to make this visit. I have a message related to the situation in Yemen and the recent developments it has witnessed, and also to the efforts made by Arab brothers in past months to overcome the crisis experienced by Yemen. This visit is also related to the stance of our brothers in Algeria toward these efforts. In fact, we found a very big response, in what we have heard, and a great eagerness for security and stability in Yemen, for Yemeni unity, and for the implementation of the pledge and accord document signed in Amman. [end recording]

Asked about the mediation the Arab Maghreb Union, chaired by Algeria, will undertake in an effort to solve the difference in the leadership of fraternal Yemen, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali said:

[Begin al-Dali recording] We consider that both in Algeria and outside Algeria we have brothers, so we do not use the word mediation. However, we consider that the Yemeni issue is Algerian, Maghreban, and Arab; consequently, their contribution will be a strong one. I would call it a strong contribution, not a mediation.

We welcome every Arab effort to help Yemen get out of its present situation and ensure that it has more guarantees for future unity and stability. [end recording]

Envoy in Madrid on International Conference on Sahara

LD2204174594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Algerian ambassador in Madrid, Hafad Nasreddine, said today that the proposal on convening an international conference to bolster the peace plan in the Western Sahara deserved respect and appreciation, because it endeavored to consolidate the principles of human rights, peoples' right of freedom, independence, and their right of self-determination.

The Algerian ambassador in Madrid said he regarded the conference as essential for enlightening and sensitizing the world public opinion with respect to the issue of peoples' liberation and their efforts to regain their dignity.

Saharan President Stops Over, Comments on Peace Plan

LD2304203394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Statement by Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz in Algiers, date not given—recorded]

[Text] After his participation in the seminar on the Western Sahara organized in Madrid, Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz, on his way back to his country has stopped over at Algiers airport, where he made a press statement at the VIP hall:

[Abdelaziz] Now there are three months, a three months that we consider decisive, given by the Security Council as a period to try to implement the peace plan. In our view we must not miss this opportunity, Morocco must not miss this opportunity, and the international community must not miss this opportunity. We must exert whatever effort possible to provide the opportunity for the implementation of the original peace plan, which aims at organizing a free, democratic, and impartial referendum to decide the fate of the Saharan people.

In our view, an international seminar could be held with the participation of neighboring countries—Algeria, Mauritania, the state that was occupying the Western Sahara, Spain, the United States, and France in their capacity as members of the Security Council and as super powers concerned with security and peace in the region of north-west Africa, the two international organizations responsible for the implementation of the peace plan, in addition to the two parties to the conflict—Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front.

In our view, such a seminar can actually contribute to the overcoming of difficulties that obstruct the implementation of the peace plan. Because it is not enough to refer the problem to the identity committee, which is a technical committee. The existing problems are political, and in order to help the identity committee, which we will cooperate with, we should create the right political conditions and hammer out the political difficulties that face it so that it can carry out a successful technical work.

UGTA Leader on 'Plots' To Harm Trade Union Movement

LD2204175894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The provincial federation of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] in Biskra held its fifth congress at the university center at the end of this week with the attendance of the UGTA secretary general Abdelhak Benhamouda and members of the national secretariat. The congress is being held with a view to appointing the provincial executive committee and the secretariat of the federation. Abdelkarim Benmoufaq reports:

[Benmoufaq] The congress was opened by UGTA secretary general Abdelhak Benhamouda. He delivered a lengthy speech on the occasion, in which he dealt with workers' difficulties in light of the fall in purchasing power. Soaring prices and a deterioration in the country's general situation, he said, has negatively effected workers and is a threat to their future.

In another development, he pointed out the plots hatched to harm the UGTA because it had worried many people because UGTA had been able to absorb and bring together workers and bring about a qualitative development on many issues that concerned the workers' stratum. He also stressed UGTA's determination to continue a real and effective trade union struggle now to try to protect workers' interests and defend their rights. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Set Cement Factory on Fire, Take Hostages

LD2304210094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpts] At about 2200, a group of terrorists stormed a cement factory in Meftah and took the workers hostage before blowing up the control and operations room. The factory is not currently working as the operations room awaits emergency repairs.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The cement factory in Meftah, in Blida Province, was sabotaged last night. The control and operations room was targeted. An armed group set this factory on fire after taking the factory's workers hostage. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that this factory employs about 600 workers and its production capacity is around 700,000 tonnes. [end recording]

The security services announced today that a group of terrorists destroyed a warehouse belonging to [word indistinct] enterprise and stole agricultural goods in Ain Defla on Wednesday [20 April] evening at 2330. On the basis of information from citizens, the security forces intervened immediately and recovered the stolen goods. One of the terrorists was injured.

The source added that swift action by citizens in Djezia, the province of Oum El Bouaghi, resulted in putting out a fire that was started on Thursday [21 April] at the Djezia municipality offices. The citizens their used own equipment to put out the fire.

Security Forces Kill 24 'Terrorists'

LD2304203194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A statement by the security services said that 24 terrorists were killed between Wednesday and Friday in Algiers, Chlef, M'lili, Blida, and Batna. Hunting rifles with sawn-off barrels, Kalashnikovs, and guns were recovered.

Other Arrests Noted

LD2404203694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The security services have announced that during Friday and Saturday [22, 23 April] they eliminated four terrorists and arrested 61 others in the provinces of Blida, 'Ain Defla, and Jijel.

The security services also announced that three citizens were assassinated in Oued [word indistinct], Annaba, and M'Sila.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From China, Gulf Tour

NC2504061694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Riyadh just after midnight at the end of a tour that took him to the Sultanate of Oman, China, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Views PRC Visit

NC2404071294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM states that President Husni Mubarak's visit to China was succesful.

The paper says Egypt's political gains from the visit are no less important than the economic gains.

These gains, AL-AHRAM explains, are represented by the two countries' complete agreement on regional issues in Asia and the Middle East in particular, and international issues in general, especially the future of the world in light of the new world order, which is now being formed.

In its editorial today the paper says that Egyptian-Chinese relations have been strong and firm for years. They have never cooled and are becoming stronger. The paper adds that Egypt's policy under President Mubarak has always been balanced and eager to support and promote relations with all nations.

President Husni Mubarak Visits China

WA2504124194

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to China, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 April China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Musa Comments on Bosnia, Christopher's Tour

NC2304153494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa describes what is happening now in Bosnia-Herzegovina as "an international scandal by any standard." He adds that the situation in Bosnia has been ignored until it deteriorated to this point, while the ethnic cleansing operations continue. This, he emphasizes, represents a "serious violation of human rights," noting that this constitutes aggression and the murder of citizens of a UN member state.

Musa, who is accompanying President Mubarak on his visit to the United Arab Emirates, made these remarks to a MENA correspondent there.

With regard to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he is willing to remove settlements from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, Musa says this is a "reasonable" offer which is not unprecedented, because settlements were previously removed from Sinai. He stresses the need for a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as part of the "full peace" endorsed by the Madrid conference for peace in the Middle East and in accordance with the "land for peace" principle. Musa reiterates Egypt's backing of the Syrian position in the negotiations, which calls for a full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace.

Musa underlines the importance of the Middle East tour U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin on Sunday [24 April] to discuss the Arab-Israeli negotiation tracks, the most important being the Syrian-Israeli track. He notes that the first stage of the Palestinian-Israeli track, about the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, is nearly concluded. He hopes the two sides will then move on the next stage of the talks.

Electricity Minister Leaves for Moscow 24 Apr

NC2404105994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Moscow today on a five-day visit to Russia.

During the visit, Abazah will hold a series of talks with ministers concerned with energy and international cooperation and trade to discuss possible Russian contributions to electricity projects in Egypt.

Government Urges RSA Nationalists To End Violence

NC2404132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Egypt, the current OAU chairman, has urged the nationalist forces in South Africa to end all acts of violence and prepare for free and honest elections that will establish a democratic system in which all sides can participate. This was stated by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry on the occasion of the first non-racial elections to be held in South Africa on Tuesday.

The Egyptian source said that the current stage in which democratic changes are taking place in South Africa demands extreme vigilance because it is difficult to eliminate the legacy of racism and tribalism in a very short time.

He added that the elections require the support of all local, regional, and international political forces to thwart the plans of the enemies of democracy.

The source affirmed that the democratic changes in South Africa are consistent with the views and will of the international community. He added that attempts to frustrate these changes will fail because they are not in the interest of the South African people.

Al-Baz Notes 'Close' PLO-Israeli Positions

NC2304112994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel. They discussed the negotiations and the extent of progress made. The Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume in Cairo tomorrow morning.

Following the meeting, Dr. al-Baz expressed hope that the Palestinians and Israelis would do their best to complete discussion of the pending issues during the round of talks that will begin Sunday so that the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can start and the Palestinian people can feel the big change that will take place when a new phase of good relations between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples begins.

He said the positions of the two sides are quite close, which makes it possible for the talks to have a "positive and happy ending."

Paper Praises Lebanon's Severing Ties With Iraq

NC2404071194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR praises the Lebanese Government's stance on the recent assassination of the Iraqi opposition figure in Beirut, describing it as courageous and decisive.

The paper says in its editorial today that the Lebanese Government first asked the Baghdad Government to lift the diplomatic immunity of the perpetrators of the crime so they could be brought to trial. When the Iraqi Foreign Ministry refused, Lebanon immediately announced the severance of diplomatic ties with Iraq.

AL-AKHBAR adds that this incident reaffirms the Iraqi regime's continued involvement in terrorist acts and President Saddam Husayn's insistence on continuing to liquidate his opponents abroad. The incident also reaffirms that any attempt to improve ties with the Iraqi regime or to have confidence in it is useless.

In conclusion, the paper says it is regrettable that the assassination of the Iraqi opposition figure in Beirut came at a time when some have been calling for Arab unity and Arab solidarity.

Security Forces To Block Passage of Algerian 'Militants'

NC2204132394 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Sallum, Egypt, April 22 (AFP)—Security forces have taken measures to block Algerian Moslem militants from trying to slip into Egypt in the guise of pilgrims on their way to Mecca, officials said Friday.

Security forces will escort pilgrims and hold their passports when they enter Egypt from Libya at Sallum until they leave the country at al-Nuwaybi' in the Sinai, officials said. "These measures are aimed at preventing Algerian militants infiltrating into Egypt," a security official at the Libyan-Egyptian border said. The security services had obtained information about attempts at cooperation between Egyptian and Algerian extremists. "The Algerian militants could take advantage of the pilgrimage season to infiltrate into Egypt and renew contacts with Egyptian activists," he said.

Some 30,000 pilgrims from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania are to start travelling to Saudi Arabia via the Egyptian border post at Sallum. The pilgrimage, or hajj, is planned for the end of May. Only Libyan pilgrims will be exempt from the measures. The governments of Egypt and Algeria are both locked in a bloody confrontation with Islamic militants bent on their overthrow.

Security Forces Seize Explosives Hidden in Cemetery

NC2404072394 Paris AFP in English 2332 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, April 24 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities seized a quantity of explosives here Saturday that Islamic fundamentalists planned to use in attacks, a source close to the security forces said.

The haul followed information given by three "dangerous" fundamentalists arrested at Tahta in Suhaj Province south of Asyut, the source said.

Comprising 16 detonators and 10 kilos (22 pounds) of TNT, it was found in a cemetery at al-Badari, 410 kilometres (250 miles) south of Cairo.

Islamic Group Holds Seminar on 'Terrorism'

NC2504105394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 7

[Text] The Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] on 10 April held an Islamic seminar entitled "Terrorism and the Alleged Dialogue." Islamic Group leaders attended the seminar, which was held after evening prayers in the al-Ansar Mosque in Suhaj.

Columnist Assails Emergency Law on Terrorism

NC2204132194 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p 20

["Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] People were pleased when the prime minister declared that the government would revoke the emergency law as soon as terrorism ends. The people will not accept living under this law when terrorism is over. This law is dubious and of ill-repute, and the people dub it martial law.

The prime minister's statement urges people to increase their resistance to terrorism, because the country does not need more problems and the people do not want their movements restricted for three years. Why three years? Does this mean the government expects terrorism to continue for three more years?

Egypt is the first country to have an emergency law in force for 13 years. Other countries have declared states of emergency for one month. Emergency laws have neither curbed nor prevented terrorism. Terrorism has been on the rise. People have started to forget what normal life is like, the days when they were never tried before military courts or state security courts and when the government never detained anyone for more than three days.

I always believed that freedom, not the emergency law, could eliminate terrorism. I recall that all the assassinations in Egypt took place under martial law and the emergency law. True, people are aware of the prevailing serious situation, but at the same time the people believe they can eliminate terrorism while they enjoy freedom and a normal life free from oppression and despotism.

Other countries have been seen more terrorist operations than our country. Britain, for example, has not declared emergency law although bombs explode in London daily. Germany has not passed an emergency law despite the daily demonstrations and the burning of foreigners' houses.

The government claims that it will not repress writers or opinions. At the same time, however, we see many journalists being tried before the criminal court and other journalists being persecuted at dawn, which is reminiscent of the sixties.

The prime minister has, however, assured us that the emergency law is temporary, not permanent. This would be a consolation if true. Let us remember that emergency law was never declared for even a day in the United States when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Sidqi Denies World Bank Pressuring Government

NC2404113094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has denied that the government is being pressured by the World Bank or other financial institutions. He added that the government does not take orders from the World Bank or other financial institutions. The government's decisions in the area of economic reform, he pointed out, are based on the conviction that they will serve the interests of the homeland and the citizens. He also said that no one could force us to do something in which we do not believe.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, the prime minister added: We have economic ties with all countries. We export, import, and hold open dialogue with all the world's countries and economic blocs, including the IMF, the World Bank, and the Paris Club. He added that we all benefit through common interests, and our cooperation with the World Bank and other international institutions must be viewed in the context of "common interests" only.

Dr. Sidqi touched on the issue of price hikes. He added that the state is striving for economic liberalization and for keeping the economy free from administrative decisions. This does not mean, however, that there will be no state control on prices and on the quality of commodities. The proof of this is that many contaminated commodities are discovered and rejected, and their importers are brought to trial.

The prime minister emphasized that for more than two years prices have been relatively stable. He said that inflation rates are declining noticeably. The rate now has gone down to approximately 7 percent, compared with over 25 percent a few years ago. This proves that the economic reform policy in Egypt is successful.

On reports that the government intends to lay off employees in the public sector after privatization, Dr. Sidqi reiterated that there will be no victims from the public business law and that no employees will be laid off unless they want to and, in that case, they will get all their rights.

On the government's confrontation with corruption, Dr. Sidqi said that no society is free from corruption, but this issue has been highly exaggerated here. Most cases of corruption are the result of rumors or malicious writing. Many of these cases have been taken to court and the rulings were decisive.

The prime minister was then asked about the delay in enacting the tenant-landlord law. He noted that the government prefers to conduct more studies on this matter and that the results will soon be submitted to the People's Assembly, because such a law could have negative or positive ramifications for society and it should be studied further.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message From Saddam

JN2304173394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi this afternoon received Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of culture and information. The leader president's envoy conveyed a message from his excellency on Iraq's view of the situation at the UN Security Council, relations with the UN Social Commission, which is headed by Rolf Ekeus, and Iraq's implementation of the provisions of Part C of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687. The message stresses the importance of coordination among sisterly and friendly states to work to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's solidarity with Iraq and his support for the recent Iraqi move.

The meeting was attended by Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, and the Iraqi ambassador in Libya.

Arab League Meeting Urged on U.S.-Israeli Cooperation

LD2404121294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, [date indistinct] Apr—JANA has learned from Arab media sources that the Great Jamahiriyah has called on the Arab League to convene an emergency meeting of Arab foreign and defense ministers to discuss the increase in strategic military cooperation between the USA and the Israelis. [passage indistinct]

He [not further identified] added that the Libyan memorandum stressed the importance of not normalizing the relations with Israel and ending the Arab boycott of the [word indistinct] entity whatever were the reasons.

The sources added that the Arab League's general secretariat has distributed the Libyan memorandum to the Arab states to reply to it and fix [word indistinct] to convene the meeting.

Morocco

Iraq's al-Tikriti Arrives, Comments

JN2204175094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Rabat, 22 Apr (INA)—Barzan al-Tikriti, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, arrived here today. In a statement upon his arrival at Muhammad V Airport, al-Tikriti said he was carrying a special message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Hassan II about Arab and world issues, as well as the sanctions that have lost any justification. He emphasized that Iraq has an abiding interest in coordinating with brother Moroccans on issues of bilateral concern.

On hand to welcome him at the airport were Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the king's adviser; the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat; and Moroccan Foreign Ministry officials.

King Meets Saddam Envoy

JN2304110294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Rabat, 23 Apr (INA)—Barzan al-Tikriti, personal envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn, has relayed a message from his excellency the president to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco on the fraternal bilateral ties between Iraq and Morocco and the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council after Iraq honored its commitments to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The message underscores that this requires the UN Security Council to fulfill its commitments by lifting the embargo clamped on Iraq.

The president's message was communicated to the Moroccan monarch during a meeting he held with the Iraqi envoy yesterday. During the meeting, King Hassan II expressed his thanks to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for keeping him informed of the Iraqi position, and also of the recent developments in the relationship with the UN Security Council. He reiterated Morocco's support for the Iraqi Government and people.

The Moroccan monarch asserted that Iraq has done all it is required to do on both the Arab and international scenes, and that there is no longer any justification for maintaining the current state of affairs.

King Hassan II of Morocco asked Barzan al-Tikriti to relay his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Abdelhadi Boutaleb [name as received], adviser to King Hassan II; and the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies U.S. Accusations on Terrorism

EA2204190394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has again denied the U.S. allegations about Sudan's violation of human rights and support for terrorism. The president made this denial yesterday in an interview with Russian television, in his office at the general command of the people's armed forces. During the interview Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also talked about political, economic and social developments in Sudan, as well as Russian-Sudanese relations.

Russian television also conducted an interview with the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, Archbishop Gabriel Rodge, during which he explained that his participation in government is for the sake of the country's unity and advancement. He said that there is no religious problem in Sudan as portrayed by the Western mass media. He explained that the Government of Sudan is serious in its efforts to solve the southern problem. He said that Sudan enjoys a normal life in which peaceful coexistence prevails. Regarding conditions in the south of the country, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry noted that the situation is very stable, which suggests that the achievement of a comprehensive peace in a unified Sudan is getting closer.

Armed Forces Spokesman on Israeli Arms Supply to SPLA

EA2304175694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, the official spokesman of the Armed Forces, issued a statement today in which he referred to reports appearing in Western media about Israeli military support for the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] rebel movement and the visit of rebel John Garang to Israel in search of military and political support.

The statement stressed that the military support for the two camps of the rebel movement was not new and that Israel has been one of the principal sources of supply to the rebel movement since the latter was founded.

Bahrain

Egypt's President Arrives for 1-Day Official Visit

JN2404123694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Manama, 24 Apr (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi at noon today on a one-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force. The chief of the Amiri Court, the chairman of the Shura Council, ambassadors, and senior officials were also present at the reception ceremony.

The Egyptian president will hold talks on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various domains. Talks will also deal with the latest Gulf, Arab, and international developments, particularly the Middle East peace process and issues of common concern.

Mubarak's delegation includes Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif. It also includes 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of public business sector and minister of state for administrative development; the Chief of the President's Office Zakariya 'Azmi; a number of Egyptian Government officials, and a press and media delegation.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Denies Plans To Reshuffle Army

LD2304220294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Apr—In an interview published here today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud denied that there were any current inclinations to reshuffle and change some commanders and officers in the Kuwaiti Army.

Al-Hamud told AL-ANBA newspaper that he was positively not "thinking about that during the current stage when Kuwaiti forces needed to concentrate on working and exerting efforts.

But he indicated that such measures could be taken in a very limited form with the interest in the work in mind and according to the needs of the next stage.

The defense minister clarified that he would settle the issue of summoning the ministry's commanders and officers by the National Assembly's fact-finding committee when he meets its members on Tuesday. Al-Hamud said he would not allow commanders and officers from the ministry to be "dragged in" at any time without the presence of justifications and reasons for such a move, and would not allow them to be summoned just to be interrogated as witnesses in trivial cases or on suspicion of committing something or other.

On the other hand, the defense minister said that there had been offers by countries and arms factories to provide the Kuwaiti Armed Forces with weapons, some of which were advanced. These weapons would enter the service of the Kuwaiti Army and could be the first to be introduced in the region. He indicated that relevant committees in the Kuwaiti Army were studying these offers. He said that new arms would be acquired according to the needs of the Kuwaiti forces and their various weapons.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Outlines Plans To End Iraqi Crisis

JN2304191294 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Facts Cannot Be Bypassed"]

[Text] The Baghdad regime is proceeding with its falsehood and ignorance. It has not learned from the lessons of the past despite their hardness and it does not want to learn from the lessons of today despite their facts that cannot be bypassed.

Following this regime's failure in its feverish attempts to break its isolation in the world and to affect the convictions of the international community, which are strengthened by past evidence and current practices; and now that this regime's procrastination—designed to evade full compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy—has been exposed, this regime is trying, through its tools and lackeys, to undermine Kuwaiti national unity by jumping over facts and claiming that it wants to discuss "all unresolved matters" with the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

We firmly believe the attempt made by the speaker of the so-called Iraqi National Assembly does not deviate from Iraq's deception and lies. This attempt shows Iraqi arrogance and insistence on disavowing Kuwaiti legitimacy, separating the state from its constitutional institutions, and bypassing the legitimate government representing people's sovereignty over their land. It is a stupid and mean booby trap aimed at blackmailing national feelings regarding the issue of prisoners. Proceeding from its ignorance and failure to understand the lessons of the past, the Iraqi regime believes it can drive a wedge in national ranks pained by the ordeal of the prisoners in Baghdad jails.

The Iraqi regime has forgotten, or pretended to forget, that Kuwaiti national unity was the rock that shattered the evil ambitions of aggression. Had the Iraqi regime an iota of awareness or sense it would have opted for the one clear road in order to emerge from the swamp of humiliation, siege, and isolation. It is the road of international legitimacy's resolutions, full, and frank recognition of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait over its territory, straightforward recognition of the international borders demarcated by a neutral international committee, immediate release of prisoners, and readiness to pay compensation to all those who were harmed by the criminal aggression. This is the only way.

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives in Abu Dhabi for Talks

JN2304134894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Beijing on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Upon his arrival, he was received by UAE President, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, several ministers, and senior civic and military officials.

During his visit, President Mubarak will hold talks with the UAE president on international and regional issues of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations in all fields.

Shaykh Zayid, Mubarak Meet

JN2404071094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met here this evening with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said talks between the two leaders dealt with all joint issues, including the situation in the Gulf, the latest Arab developments, and all that serves the Arab and Islamic nations and their causes.

The agency said the two presidents will hold a round of talks tomorrow, Sunday.

Closed Meeting Held

JN2404094894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak resumed their talks this morning.

The talks, attended by members of the Egyptian and UAE delegations, continued discussing issues tackled by the two leaders yesterday.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said the two leaders held a closed meeting following the talks that were attended by the two delegations.

Musa Cited on Talks

JN2404105294 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A session of talks was held at al-Mushrif Palace this morning between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and his brother His Excellency President Muhmmad Husni Mubarak of sisterly Egypt. [passage omitted]

After the expanded meeting, a meeting confined to the two leaders was held.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that today's main session of talks between the two leaders dealt with the developments in the Gulf region and Arab developments in general, the Middle East peace process, the results of the two leaders' mediation to preserve Yemeni unity, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and bilateral ties in the economic and technical fields.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Musa said that the two leaders noted their eagerness and efforts to preserve Yemeni Unity and implement the Yemeni Pledge and Accord Document. He noted that Badr Hammam, the assistant Egyptian foreign minister, is now in Sanaa to pursue contacts between Yemeni leaders in Sanaa and Aden.

Answering a question on whether the talks dealt with arrangements to hold a quadrilateral Arab summit in Cairo to deal with the Yemeni situation, Musa said that preparations have not been made to hold this summit but the idea is still there. This summit would require good planning to ensure its success.

Musa said that the two leaders expressed great interest in developments in Bosnia-Hrezegovina and stressed the need for the international community to end the Serb attack against the people of Gorazde. Musa praised the NATO ultimatum to attack Serb forces unless they withdrew from Gorazde and said that he considered this a good move in the right direction if it realizes the aim of stopping Serb attacks and establishing peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

PLO Executive Committee Official Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN2204201394 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Cairo last night on a visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the visit, brother Abu-Mazin will hold talks with senior UAE officials. The talks will deal with the Middle East peace process and the hurdles facing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord. [passage omitted]

Minister, PLO Envoy Meet

JN2404064894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening received Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, who is currently visiting the UAE.

Discussions dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process. Abu-Mazin explained in detail the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations, currently under way in Cairo, and the possibility of signing a declaration of principles, according to which the Palestinian police forces will enter Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Yemen

'Secret' Memorandum on YSP-Saudi Relations

JN2404172594 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 7

[Excerpt of "secret memorandum" obtained by AL-MUHARRIR from the Yemeni Foreign Ministry, date not given]

[Text] AL-MUHARRIR has obtained the text of a secret memorandum from the Yemeni Foreign Ministry revealing the true dimensions of the conflict, the position of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the role of some Saudi businessmen of Yemeni origin in fomenting the inter-Yemeni conflict, and its oil objectives. The memorandum reveals facts and puts some YSP leaders in the prisoner's dock.

The following is part of the verbatim text of the memorandum, a copy of which was made available to AL-MUHARRIR:

Apparently, great progress has been made in relations between the YSP and Saudi Arabia. There is much information about this issue. We have included the important parts in our memorandum to you No. 91, dated 23 February, following the important visit by YSP leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid to Saudi Arabia on his way home from Jordan.

Pursuant to our instructions, and as is customary in dealing with such kind of political developments, a number of our aides have held several contacts and meetings with various parties. They have reached a conclusion including the following elements:

1. The progress made in relations between the YSP and Saudi Arabia constitutes a success for the great behind-the-scenes action of a number of Saudi businessmen of Yemeni origin from the Hadhramaut area. "It should be noted here that the Saudi Embassy in Sanaa was not aware of these relations." These men are affiliated with rich financial institutions, and have a strong desire to invest in the southern parts of Yemen and to impose economic control, through their interests, on these areas. They have found the current circumstances in Yemen and Saudi Arabia an appropriate opportunity. On the one hand, they seek to satisfy the royal family in Riyadh by weakening the position of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on whom the Saudi regime seeks to take revenge due to his position during the Gulf crisis, and later his position on the demarcation of the Saudi-Yemeni borders, which the Saudis termed as inflexible and unyielding. On the other hand, this wealthy group believes that the current YSP leaders constitute the best group of men to deal with, especially since they were able to tighten their control on the southern areas of Yemen, and engaged in a big conflict with President Salih and his aides in Sanaa.

2. The thing that contributed to the success of these Saudi businessmen's efforts is that their Yemeni origins, particularly from Hadhramaut, are congruent with the affiliations of the most prominent YSP leaders. YSP leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Prime Minister [Haydar Abu-Bakr] al-'Attas, and Aden Governor Salih al- Siyali, who is very close to al-Bid, are all from the Hadhramaut region. The Saudi businessmen seek to involve the YSP deeper in the current conflict in Yemen even if this leads to the separation of the southern areas from the country as was the case before the Yemeni unity in Mayo 1990. If this turned out to be difficult, then, at least, the separation of Hadhramaut would be alright, along with the establishment of an independent state in it after annexing the al-Mahrah area similar to the other Gulf states, especially since the recent exploration of oil has encouraged such ambitions. We do not yet have sufficient and confirmed information about the YSP leaders' readiness to deal with this plan. There are only some signs and unconfirmed information about strong inclinations to respond to this plan by both al-'Attas and Salih al-Siyali. (It should be taken into consideration that in the case of such countries, personal inclinations of some strong political leaders can have a great impact on the general policy, particularly when there are adequate financial capabilities to support these inclinations).

3. The Saudi regime is exerting strong pressures and clearly encouraging the separation of south Yemen from north Yemen. The regime is supported in this regard by some Kuwaiti rulers. The reason here is self-explanatory and needs no further justification. These parties pin more hopes on the position of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his role in achieving the separation plan than on the YSP itself.

4. It has recently been noticed that undeclared large Saudi aid has been flowing to the officials in the southern areas. The powerful Aden Governor Salih al-Siyali is the coordinator of these relations. He enjoys powers that go beyond the powers of any other governor. What attracts many people's attention is that al-Siyali spends money

lavishly. It has become clear that the greatest part of these expenditures does not come from government sources; something which proves that the source of these funds is the secret Saudi financial aid.

5. The group from the southern Hadhramaut region exploits its current presence in the YSP leadership to escalate the Yemeni crisis in order to separate south Yemen and to establish an independent state. This issue has become a source of concern for the other YSP leaders some of whom are from northern areas. They began to realize that the Hadhramaut group has deceived them and involved them in this. For this reason, signs of an internal conflict began to appear, a conflict which is expected to escalate. Surprises are not ruled out.

Official Denies YSP Claims; Army Attacks Kidnappers' Site

JN2204183094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] A northern Yemeni official denied in Sanaa today that military reinforcements were sent to the northern al-'Amaliqah brigade which is stationed in the south, saying planes are transporting only food and medicine to troops stationed in the area. The Yemeni official, who asked not to be named, said northern planes are now assuming this task because supplies for the al- 'Amaliqah Brigade were cut off by the southern 20th Brigade in Mukayris, the point from which these items reached the Abyan area north of Aden where the al-'Amaliqah brigade is stationed.

The north Yemeni official was responding to a Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] statement issued last night accusing northern forces of sending reinforcements to the al-'Amaliqah Brigade in the south of the country. The YSP statement said seven helicopters carrying arms, military equipment, and troops landed at the al-'Amaliqah brigade's military camp and that at least 10 tanks and missile carriers were brought to beef up northern army positions in the central part of the previous border between the two parts of Yemen.

On another level, the Yemeni Army today attacked a site where the Jahm tribal elements have been detaining for one month three Netherlands nationals in a mountainous area, 200 km east of Sanaa. The Ma'rib district governor left for the site in an attempt to release the three captives, who had been working in a project to supply the capital with water. The kidnappers are trying to force the Yemeni authorities to employ members of the Jahm tribe in oil companies and the army.

Diplomats Expelled From Lebanon Reportedly in Baghdad

JN2304083894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Amman—Three Iraq diplomats have returned home from Beirut after Lebanon broke diplomatic links with their country over an assassination of an Iraqi dissident in the Lebanese capital.

The three, including Charge d'Affaires 'Awad Fakhri, flew to Amman aboard a royal Jordanian (RJ) flight Thursday morning. Two of their colleagues were arrested by Lebanese police as they got out of their diplomatic-plate cars at Beirut airport to board the flight.

The arrest of the two raised to four the number of Iraqi diplomats held in Beirut over the April 12 killing of Shaykh Talib 'Ali al-Suhayl, who was reported to have been a key figure in a foiled plot against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last year.

Mr. Fakhri had demanded that the Lebanese Government, which broke diplomatic ties with Iraq after Baghdad refused to lift the diplomatic immunity for the two attaches, Muhammad Kazim and Khalid Khalaf release the two diplomats. He also refused to hand over another attache, 'Ali Darwish, and guard Hadi Hassan, the suspected assassin, who were holed up in the Iraqi embassy in Beirut since the day of assassination.

A Lebanese-Armenian employee of the embassy, George Teredjian, who allegedly drove the assassination team to al-Suhayl's apartment in Beirut, has also been detained and charged with complicity.

It was not immediately clear how the embassy stand-off ended, given the tough statements that Mr. Fakhri had been issuing demanding the release of Mr. Kazim and Mr. Khalaf.

But analysts speculated that the Iraqis realised that they could be in for a long siege by Lebanese police or be exposed to a possible storming of the embassy after Friday, the date set by the Beirut government for them to leave the country and thus the effective end to diplomatic immunity for the building.

They also noted that the Lebanese government had instructed its lone diplomat in Baghdad, Sa'd Zakhya, to leave Iraq immediately after the arrest of the two Iraqi diplomats in Beirut.

Mr. Zakhya left Baghdad in the early hours of April 13, shortly after the Beirut arrests, and flew out of Amman for the Lebanese capital on April 14.

Mr. Darwish and Mr. Hassan were arrested as they arrived at Beirut airport to board the flight to Amman on Thursday along with Charge d'Affaires Fakhri and two other diplomats, whose names were not immediately available. But one of them was believed to be the Beirut correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA).

Mr. Fakhri and the other two were allowed to board the flight. The Associated Press reported that they were carrying 15 pieces of baggage weighing 350 kilogrammes, including boxes of files and electronic appliances.

Journalists covering their arrival at Amman airport reported tight Iraqi security that prevented from talking to any of the three, who were met by the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan, Nuri al- Wayyis al-Tikriti and other Iraqi diplomats.

A small scuffle broke out as some Iraqi security men sought to seize television films of the arrival of the diplomats from Lebanon, news agencies reported. The row was settled with intervention by Jordanian security forces, who upheld the right of the media to cover the event, the reports said.

The three who arrived from Beirut were directly driven from Amman airport on the 1,000-kilometre trip to Baghdad, the Associated Press quoted Iraqi embassy spokesman 'Adil Ibrahim as saying.

There was no immediate report from Baghdad of the diplomats' arrival there.

The Iraqi government has denied Lebanese Prosecutor General Munir 'Uwaydat that its intelligence apparatus had ordered the killing of al-Suhayl, who held Jordanian and Saudi passports and was a known opponent of the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

According to reports in the Lebanese press quoting "confessions" by the two attaches arrested immediately after the killing, the order for the assassination had come from Baghdad over the telex. The operation was allegedly masterminded by Mr. Darwish.

Charge d'Affaires Fakhri was called in by prosecutors to hear the confession of the two, the reports said.

An Iraqi Foreign Minister spokesman has accused Lebanon of violating the 1961 international convention and regulates diplomatic immunity.

"It has detained diplomats who possess diplomatic immunity... charging them with baseless accusation," the spokesman said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

Head of UN Special Commission Arrives, Comments

JN2404130094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the head of a delegation on a two-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Rolf Ekeus said that he would resume the talks he began with Iraqi officials in New York and Baghdad in July, 1993, which resulted in tangible progress.

Asked whether the visit was part of the dialogue between Iraq and the Special Commission, Ekeus said that the UN Security Council welcomed the visit, endorsed it, and asked for an early report on the results of these talks, and that the Special Commission promised to present the report to the Security Council next week.

Ekeus also clarified that talks with the Iraqi side will deal with political and technical aspects.

The Special Commission consists of Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Tim Trigan [name as transliterated], spokesman for the UN Special Commission; and a number of technicians.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the talks between Iraq and the Special Commission will begin at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow evening.

'Official' Talks Begin

JN2404182794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the UN Security Council's Special Commission began at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

The Iraqi side was led by engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Organization, and the Special Commission's delegation was led by its executive chairman, Rolf Ekeus.

Both sides reviewed the status of technical achievements between Iraq and the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The Iraqi side to the talks also included Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi and several other officials, while the Special Commission's delegation included Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chairman of the IAEA, Tim Trigan, spokesman for the UN Special Commission, and several experts.

Foreign Minister, UN Official Meet

JN2504110694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met at the Foreign Ministry this morning with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission.

During the meeting, they reviewed the achievements made since the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to New York in mid-March.

The meeting was attended by Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, the director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Technical talks between Iraq and the UN Special Commission are still going on at the Foreign Ministry.

Saddam Receives Libyan Leader's Envoy, Letter

JN2404141294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1318 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Mustafa al-Kharrubi, personal envoy to his excellency from his brother Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi conveyed to his excellency the president a letter from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with relations between the two brotherly countries, as well as issues of common interest.

President Saddam Husayn asserted to the Libyan envoy Iraq's firm support for fraternal Libya against hostile plans targeting it.

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi expressed to his excellency the support of the Libyan Government and people for fraternal Iraq in its just and legitimate struggle to confront the unjust blockade with all means. He also praised the steadfastness and firmness of our Iraqi mujahid people.

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi was accompanied by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salam Bin-Khayyal, under secretary at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, and 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Ramadan, al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Meet

JN2304195694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1834 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan met this evening with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, personal envoy of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his brother President Saddam Husayn, at his residence. The two officials reviewed forms of U.S.-Zionist plots concocted against Iraq and Libya. They also discussed ways of cooperation and coordination between the two sides to confront the challenges imposed on the two countries, particularly the continuation of the unjust blockade on the two fraternal people.

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days. He is accompanied by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salam Bin-Khayyal, official at the General People's Committee for External Liaison, and Husayn Salih, director of the Arab League Affairs at the General People's Committee for Unity.

INA learned that Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi is bringing a personal message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Libyan Envoy Departs

JN2404162094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, personal envoy to his Excellency President Saddam Husayn from his brother Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Baghdad this afternoon.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Col. Kharrubi said he had delivered a letter to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Libyan President Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as issues of common interest.

New 'Regional' Intelligence Activities Detailed

PM2204135894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "New Regional Spread for Iraqi Intelligence"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Iraqi sources have revealed in contacts with Jordan that the plan to assassinate Iraqi oppositionist Talib al-Suhayl was jointly drawn up by the intelligence center in Baghdad, the Iraqi regional intelligence center in Amman, and the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. The plan was part of a new regional spread for Iraqi intelligence.

The sources said that the intelligence deputy chief, who is the Iraqi president's cousin, received an order from Saddam Husayn to watch al-Suhayl's movements once he is notified by the Iraqi Embassy in Lebanon of al-Suhayl's presence in Beirut, and to draw up a plan to assassinate him, whatever the political and diplomatic consequences.

The intention was to use some Palestinian agents linked to Iraqi organs in Lebanon, but the speed with which the Iraqi president's order was issued prompted reliance on Iraqi intelligence elements who have diplomatic capacities.

Iraqi intelligence elements had been watching al-Suhayl's movements for nine months, since the uncovering of an attempt to overthrow the regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The sources believe that al-Suhayl's assassination is a message to Jordanian authorities on the one hand and Lebanese authorities and the Syrian Government on the other. Al-Suhayl had enjoyed Jordan's protection since 1970. He left Jordan after receiving murder threats from Iraqi intelligence. The Iraqi Government wanted also to ridicule the Lebanese authorities' attempts to restore security to Lebanon in cooperation with the Syrian Government. Its intention was to carry out an operation such that it would be difficult to uncover Iraqi diplomats' implication in it. But chance and mistakes in implementation led to the exposure of Iraqi organs' implication in this operation. [passage omitted]

The sources revealed that their information from inside Iraqi organs confirms that al-Suhayl's assassination is the start of a large-scale plan which exploits the relaxation in relations between Iraq and a number of states and the increase in the number of Iraqi diplomats present in diplomatic capacities primarily in Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Yemen, Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Russia, France, and Italy. The number of these has doubled over the past year. Diplomatic missions have been supplied with elements from the intelligence and the special security organ or relatives of the Iraqi president, as is the case in Jordan, Yemen, Italy, Turkey, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, and the Iraqi mission in Cairo.

The sources revealed that the planned assassination operations in Lebanon include the targeting of the embassies of a number of states hostile to Iraq. There is also coordination in Jordan to carry out similar operations in cooperation with pro-Iraqi Palestinian organizations, in addition to planning kidnapping operations using Iraqi embassy cars, which enjoy diplomatic immunity at land border points.

The sources said that the Iraqi Airlines and trade missions have accommodated a number of intelligence officers posing as technicians and commercial employees, as is the case in Tunisia, Mauritania, and Jordan. In Jordan, the Land Transporation Company, the Iraqi Trade Coordination Establishment in al-'Aqabah, and the Trade Section in Amman are used to this end.

The sources believe that part of the political and military onslaught which the Iraqi president has been threatening since Ramadan [February/March] is devoted to the assassination of Iraqi oppositionists and diplomats belonging to states that have no relations with the Iraqi Government at present—Arab and foreign states.

The sources confirmed that they obtained their information from elements working in Iraqi organs and Iraqi embassies abroad. They declined to reveal another aspect of their information at present for practical and security reasons.

Saddam Receives al-Ta'mim Group, Stresses Traditions

JN2304195394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpts] In front of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, a delegation of tribal chieftains, notables, and men of religion from various sects in the al-Ta'mim Governorate took the oath of absolute allegiance to his excellency. In their oath, they stressed their devotion to the beloved of the people and builder of modern Iraq. They stressed their readiness to sacrifice their souls and valuables in defense of the soil of this great homeland and its unity and sovereignty.

Afterward, in a speech delivered by the al-Ta'mim governor, the delegation emphasized to his excellency the al-Ta'mim population's sincere loyalty and bravery in times of misfortune. They stressed they are standing as an impregnable wall against the enemies and that they are always ready for sacrifice and struggle under our leader and symbol, may God grant him clear victory. [passage omitted]

The leader president, may he live long, made valuable remarks in which he stressed the importance of maintaining one's faith in the values and heritage of our nation and homeland. He emphasized the importance of adherence to virtues, which should always constitute the basis for new generations' upbringing. He stressed that the prevailing traditions in the city and among tribesmen should be respected and maintained.

Addressing the attendees, his excellency said: All the Iraqis are the children of the same people. Old and recent events are part of our history, for which you have offered dear sacrifices. You could not have offered such sacrifices had you not been convinced of your stand.

Saddam Addresses Group

JN2404112594

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 2007 GMT on 23 April, as part of its scheduled 2000 GMT newscast, carries a 24-minute recording of the "text" of a speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn when he received a delegation from the al-Ta'mim Governorate comprised of tribal chieftains, notables, and clergymen of various denominations, who pronounced the "oath of total allegiance" to the Iraqi leader, reiterating their loyalty and allegiance to "the people's loved one and the architect of modern Iraq," and underscoring their willingness to sacrifices their lives, and all that is dear in defense of Iraq and its unity and sovereignty.

President Saddam Husayn begins his speech by saluting the delegation members, saying: "I do not want to address the recent past," but notes that "foreigners" want to make sure that no other nations become powerful. He says they "do not want to see a hill or a mountaintop on the earth they are treading," but does not elaborate. He begins to speak about the past in general terms, and recognizes the "dear sacrifices" the Iraqis offered in this past. He likens the history of nations to that of men. He argues that the history of a nation documents the hardships they undergo.

Elaborating on this, Saddam addresses the al-Ta'mim delegation, saying: "The standing of your people and state is commensurate with the magnitude of the sacrifices they make in defense of right and justice. We have repeatedly said that we do not deem ourselves superior to anybody on the globe, given our age-old and rich traditions, and our true Islamic religion, which holds all human beings equal in their human worth. However, if anybody deems himself superior to us, we become duty-bound to rectify such a transgression. This has been our situation from the outset, and will remain so. We do not transgress against anybody. But, whoever transgresses against us must calculate the consequences. You have long pledged to vindicate Karkuk. The attendees are all noble figures representing various denominations, faiths, ethnic groups, and tribes. You are all the sons of a single people. Karkuk is your city, just as Baghdad is yours. Of course, Karkuk is also special. Evildoers, and those benefiting from evil, be they near or far, are well aware that evil cannot be entrenched, and thus become threatening unless Karkuk turns evil. This is an established fact of which we were well aware before 1968, when the revolution took place. That is why we place Karkuk on an equal footing with al-'Azamiyah and al-Karkh. The law enforced in al-'Azamiyah and al-Karkh will also be enforced in Karkuk. There can be no other law." [applause]

Saddam notes the experiences Karkuk has gone through at the hands of "unrestrained outlaws," and underscores the need for people to learn from past lessons. He urges the delegation members to view themselves as a close-knit family, as "sons of a single country." He adds: "You have to deem the wrongdoers pardoned by the state as part of you. This should remain the case unless they remind you of their old mischief. Then, you must punish them for the old and new mischief that they carried out. Your state cherishes a host of habits, of which you are well aware. These habits reflect the values you cherish and the principles you uphold."

Saddam preaches tolerance among residents of all Iraqi governorates. If an Iraqi hailing from Baghdad wants to settle in al-Ta'mim, he must cherish the traditions and values the al-Ta'mim residents treasure. But if an Iraqi means mischief, he must be confronted firmly, Saddam argues. He says that the true Iraqi identity is manifested in "good citizenship and patriotism."

Iraqis, Saddam argues, should respect the views of the majority of the people. Saddam acknowledges the possible emergence of differing views on national issues, particularly with regard to economy. However, he states that there can be no various interpretations when patriotic sentiments are at stake. He adds that whoever chooses to abandon his patriotic sentiments cannot be called an Iraqi. He goes on to say that the Iraqi state, just like Iraqi tribes, cherishes certain values, and detests others. Freedom, he argues, cannot allow a person to engage in mischief against neighbors.

Saddam urges his audience to enlighten their children, sons, and daughters about the past, and about the misery they experienced in the past. He adds that work, dutifulness, and conscientiousness have promoted the Iraqis' lot. He goes on to say that the pursuit of such an approach establishes a firm course on which one can build. He notes that the regime that does not pursue a firm course cannot have firm loyalists defending it.

Saddam notes the problems facing marriageable young women, saying: "I have been informed that when some girls are proposed to by cousins, relatives, neighbors, or acquaintances, they say that they want bridegrooms who are equal to their fathers in stature. Well, do you know how your fathers were in the past? Your fathers are now almost 50, or 60 years old. You see that his house is covered with marble. You must realize that this prestige has been achieved after 60 years of efforts. When your father was 20-years old, he did not have this property. This means that fathers have not enlightened their daughters as to their true state of affairs 20 years ago. This spoils daughters, because they would have unrealistic aspirations and ambitions. They need to get married to new graduates. How can these graduates own a house, a car, etcetera? Can ownership be realized by anything other than work?"

Saddam urges Iraqis to cherish sublime values, contending that car ownership should not turn into a form of ostentatious behavior. The same goes for camel or cattle ownership, he says.

Saddam argues that Iraqis and Arabs always "viewed money as a means to a higher end." He urges Iraqi parents to enlighten their children about the kind of life they led 20 years ago. He also notes that "some boys are also exceeding the proper bounds." He expresses the conviction that had the boys been enlightened by their parents, they would not have "exceeded the proper bounds."

Saddam adds: "You are the men of al-Ta'mim. Judging by your conduct, one can say that the entire population of al-Ta'mim is good. We do not have any concern about al-Ta'mim, nor do we have any concern about al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, or Dahuk. This is because normalcy will eventually prevail." [applause]

Saddam adds that the situation brought about by external factors will become a thing of the past, from which the Iraqis can learn lessons. He adds: "We will exercise amnesty when God allows us to." Then, the good-natured men and women will take charge, he notes.

Saddam goes on to say: "We have no fears about Karkuk or Baghdad. We are full of faith that this country is as firm as God wants it to be, and as God wants the faithful community to be."

Afterward, Saddam wishes the al-Ta'mim delegation a bright future.

Paper Says U.S., 'Agents' Behind Events in Kurdistan

JN2304150394 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 8

["Last Word" column by Hamid Sa'id]

[Text] All U.S. statements on Iraq have lost their credibility and aroused anger and ridicule at the same time. These statements have always been premeditated, hostile, and biased.

Many—if not all—of these statements fail to convince those who hear them. It is noted that U.S. officials issue judgments that are supposed to be made by the United Nations or the Security Council. Those officials, without even taking into consideration the formal side, speak about issues which are the main responsibilities of international organizations.

In the past, U.S. officials used to drop hints for the international organizations with their positions and ideas. Today, however, they do not bother themselves with this.

Examples of this can be seen in the statements by Michael McCurry, official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, on the killing of the AFP correspondent in Iraq's Kurdistan and the wounding of two UN guards in that area.

This U.S. spokesman cited information revealing a hellish imagination. We listened to an unbelievable story. He said: The United Nations has information that the Iraqi Government rewards people who are ready to kill workers in the United Nations and in humanitarian organizations. He then spoke about the value of these rewards and how they were raised at the beginning of March. He then said: If giving these rewards proves to be true, they represent violations of the UN resolutions. In other words, he is not sure whether or not the information is true.

It is natural to say that the information—if there is such information—is fabricated by their agents in the area, who live under their protection and who play a treacherous and terrorist role with the weapons they receive from their masters.

Since the area is under their protection and is run by their agents, they are responsible for all the crimes and violations there. Why don't such acts happen with other UN officials throughout the rest of Iraq, despite the Iraqis' rancor and rejection of their presence, and despite the fact that hundreds of reporters visit Iraq and carry out their tasks under the best of conditions, provided by the Culture and Information Ministry?

Why do the Americans remain silent about the daily killings, looting, and robbery carried out by their agents against Iraqi Kurds?

'Aziz Meets Jordanian Islamic Action Front Delegation

JN2304134594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1143 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received here a Jordanian

Islamic Action Front delegation. The delegation, which is currently visiting the country, is led by 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that thanks to the wisdom of President Saddam Husayn and the resolve of the Iraqi people, Iraq has managed to rebuild what the evil and arrogant forces have destroyed, despite the continuation of the unjust blockade against it. He said that when people have sincere and faithful leaders with clear objectives, they manage to hold fast and attain their objectives. Such is the case in Iraq, he noted. He added: Despite all difficulties, we in Iraq are optimistic about the future.

Al-'Akayilah praised the Iraqi people's steadfastness and courage in confronting the aggressors and the iniquitous blockade. He said that Iraq has initiated the phenomenon of defying the world's arrogant powers, and that Iraq represents the Arab nation's ammunition for confronting the serious plot targeting Arabism and Islam.

The two sides stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between pan-Arabist and Islamic forces and movements in the joint struggle against the imperialist and Zionist plots and threats.

Women's Rights Symposium Ends; Statement Issued

JN2304120694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—The international symposium on human rights for women has emphasized that the international community should adhere to an agreement on children's rights and avoid discrimination between children.

In a statement issued today at the end of its meetings in Baghdad, the symposium denounced the serious violations of international laws and humanity that are committed against children and women, especially during armed conflicts. The statement said that discrimination and the unfair treatment of women represent basic injustices and violations of the human rights accepted by all international charters and norms.

The statement condemned using food and medicine as a tool for political pressures on world peoples to influence their political choices and to undermine their right to freely choose their future and their political and economic systems away from external intervention.

The symposium welcomed the UN General Assembly adoption of a declaration on ending violence against women in the public and private sectors and to stop all forms of trade in women.

The symposium emphasized that countries should join the agreement on eliminating discrimination against women and abide by its rules in their national legislation and in implementation of these rules.

The symposium recommended giving priority to funds that are allotted for covering the needs of women and children over repayment of foreign debts when introducing infrastructural adaptation measures the World Bank imposes on Third World countries.

The symposium emphasized its faith in the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and its commitment to the objectives of the Nairobi strategy on improving women's conditions by the year 2000 and on equality and development.

The international symposium on human rights for women, which was held in Baghdad on 20-22 April, was attended by 22 Arab and foreign countries.

Minister Assesses OPEC Conference, French Contracts

JN2404164494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 21

[Interview with Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Majid] What is your assessment of the OPEC Geneva conference?

[Jawad] At a meeting convened in Geneva last month, the price-monitoring ministerial committee of OPEC decided to maintain the existing production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day [BPD] until the end of the year. The agreement, which Iraq did not sign, led to a deterioration in oil prices on world markets, given that the ceiling far outstrips demand for OPEC oil. That applies particularly to the second quarter of this year, when demand is expected to fall behind the ceiling by 1 to 2 million BPD.

['Abd-al-Majid] Why did Saudi Arabia balk at cutting its output quota?

[Jawad] Saudi Arabia has benefited the most from the cuttoff of Iraqi oil from world markets. In the wake of the sanctions, Saudi Arabia's production jumped from 5.38 million PBD—the share set for it by the July, 1990 agreement—to over 8 million BPD early this year. Although this substantial increase in Saudi Arabia's output was accompanied by a real drop in prices, notably in late 1993 and early 1994, the Saudis pressed ahead with these high production levels, without reference to the interests of other OPEC members.

The argument advanced by Saudi Arabia was that in the event OPEC cut production to boost prices, non-OPEC producers would increase theirs and thus neutralize the intended effect of the OPEC action. Incidentally, Iraq has called on all producers, both within and outside of OPEC, to pursue production policies that should raise their income by balancing output and prices in the international market. Many producers from outside OPEC have shown a willingness to cooperate in restoring balance to the market. However, for this to happen such major producers like Saudi Arabia must act responsibly.

['Abd-al-Majid] With the current downtrend in oil prices on the world market, how will Iraq act if the oil embargo is lifted?

[Jawad] The downward trend in oil prices is projected to persist for the next five months, when they will rally again.

We think that lifting the oil embargo on Iraq will contribute to a boost in prices, since then OPEC will call an extraordinary session and adjust its overall production. Iraq's return to the oil market will remove a negative factor that has been having an impact on the oil prices. Iraq will also play an influential and responsible role in formulating OPEC's production policies so as to advance the interests of all interested parties and stabilize prices.

['Abd-al-Majid] When will the Iraqi contract with the French companies become effective?

[Jawad] Iraq seeks to expand and diversify its relations with many foreign companies, including French companies. The latest talks with the French side and their results are aimed at having good relations with oil companies based on the exchange of interests between all parties. As for relations with the French companies, Iraq hopes that these companies will take the necessary steps and prepare for the lifting of the oil embargo as soon as possible.

['Abd-al-Majid] Will Jordan's share of crude oil be increased, or will it continue at the same rates?

[Jawad] As you know, Iraq has warm fraternal relations with Jordan. The present rates of oil supplies to Jordan depend on the quantities required by Jordan and allowed by the United Nations. The question of maintaining or increasing the present rates depends on coordination between the two sides and the relevant UN resolutions.

['Abd-al-Majid] How true is the report about constructing an Iraqi oil pipeline to the Port of al-'Aqabah?

[Jawad] Iraq seeks to increase and diversify its oil exporting terminals. The idea of an Iraqi oil pipeline to al-'Aqabah is aimed at increasing the flexibility of Iraqi oil exportation. Several feasibility studies should first be made, taking into consideration political developments and the required guarantees for the flow of Iraqi oil from the Port of al-'Aqabah.

['Abd-al-Majid] Which are the U.S. companies that negotiated with Iraq on investing new oil fields?

[Jawad] Several U.S. companies negotiated with Iraq on investing new oil fields, as did companies from other countries. These negotiations aim to realize the joint interests of all parties, also they are in their initial stages, so we cannot predict their outcome.

['Abd-al-Majid] Twenty-two Congress members asked the U.S. President to send equipment to extract oil from the northern region of Iraq. What is your comment?

[Jawad] The attempts to divide Iraq's unity are pitiful and are destined to failure. What some agent quarters and Zionism are trying to do is to split the national unity. These attempts do not aim to realize the interests of the Iraqi people in the northern region. Iraq does not need assistance from suspicious quarters under the pretext of assisting its sons. Iraq is rich with oil, and can provide all its areas with their oil needs.

['Abd-al-Majid] What was the most prominent achievement in the oil sector despite the circumstances of siege and oil embargo?

[Jawad] There have been several achievements in the area of oil during the siege, but reconstructing the oil sector after the wholesale destruction it suffered was the most prominent achievement. In order to know the importance of this achievement, we recall that the oil sector suffered brutal attacks against all its facilities, and that 180 main sites were attacked by missiles and air raids. Two thousand five hundred air raids were launched against these sites, and 150,000 bombs were fired at them. This reduced the refining capacity to only 3 percent, and the total costs of damage reached $6 billion, according to UN estimates.

Since the first day of the cease-fire, the people in the oil sector exerted exceptional efforts and used innovative means to rebuild the destroyed facilities, thus the refineries once again became operational. As for the field of oil extraction, the oil facilities were badly damaged and nonoperational. During the rebuilding stage, oil experts managed to rebuild these facilities and restored them to a better status than prior to the aggression. Moreover, the pumping stations, pipelines, and oil tanks were rebuilt.

Many big and important accomplishments could be added to the marvelous rebuilding work. These accomplishments were realized through personal efforts—accomplishments that had in the past been confined to Western expertise. New potentials were added in the oil refining sector with a dependence on potentials and expertise that in the past were not sufficiently invested. The productive efficiency of our oil facilities is now better than it was before the aggression. Cadres were introduced to other fields of work other than the oil sector, including the industrial and agricultural sectors as well as the sugar plant, al-Najaf tire factory, and other industrial plants. We also actively participated in completing the leader's river, al-'Izz River, Taj al-Ma'arik [Crown of Battles] River, and Umm al-Ma'arik [Mother of Battles] River. Work is continuing on a project to irrigate al-Jazirah, and the sanitation projects in al-Ramadi and al-Fallujah. We also made contributions to rebuilding bridges such as al-Qurnah tubular bridge, the bridge at al-Majidiyah, the suspension bridge, and leader Saddam's double-deck bridge. Moreover, our cadres were able to find many alternatives to industrial parts that used to be imported from outside.

['Abd-al-Majid] Is there any inclination to export gas to Arab countries, including Jordan, in particular, after the discovery of gas reserves in the Western desert?

[Jawad] Iraq sought to develop all its hydrocarbon resources. Some time ago, Iraq adopted a policy to stop wasting gas. The gas projects in the North and South clearly show Iraq's concern about the amounts of gas produced. Of course, plans to utilize gas does not only mean using it locally, but also to export it to other nearby or faraway countries. Priority will go to nearby countries, especially Arab countries, which will receive special attention in terms of exporting gas to them. Foremost of these countries is Jordan, which will receive its share of exported gas as soon as gas projects are completed and once outlets and means to export it outside are available. The unfair embargo on Iraq is currently a big obstacle to Iraq in terms of developing its gas resources and allowing it to export its surplus to nearby countries, including Jordan. Of course, the fact that there are new gas reserves in the Western desert will contribute to Iraq's ability to export to a nearby country like Jordan.

['Abd-al-Majid] A Turkish official who recently visited Baghdad expects Iraq to start exporting oil this year. What do you say about that?

[Jawad] We are ready to export oil at any time.

['Abd-al-Majid] When to be exact?

[Jawad] We expect this to take place in 1994. Oil will be pumped through the Turkish pipeline next month. Cleaning work on this pipeline is currently underway and will require pumping a certain amount of oil. This, in practice, means that we will resume the export of oil. This issue is of great importance to the Turkish side. The halt in exporting Iraqi oil has caused unemployment and security problems. The Turks are the ones who insist that we quickly finalize this issue.

['Abd-al-Majid] Have you thought of special security measures to protect the aforementioned pipeline from acts of sabotage in areas controlled by the Kurds?

[Jawad] Protection is available and the Turks are capable of securing that. It is illogical that they would take a step like this without coordinating their stands with the Kurds.

Role of Arab Press in Ending Embargo Examined

JN2304190294 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

["Free Opinion" column by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Correspondents and the Time for National Action"]

[Text] Is it enough for the Arab media man, especially the correspondent, to demand the lifting of the embargo on Iraq in general through his media and then remain silent waiting for the consciences of the executioners crouching in the Western capitals, especially Washington, to wake up? The experience of the past three years and, indeed, all the good calls by journalists, politicians, lovers of freedom and humans in the Arab homeland and the world to lift the embargo were in vain because the consciences of decision makers in the colonialist West are dead and do not allow the calls of goodwill, right, and humanitarianism to reach their ears.

Hence, the correct national and humanitarian stand of the Arab correspondent is no longer to just call for lifting the embargo. This is especially so after some Arab governments, which made their contributions to the crime of the 30-state aggression on Iraq and to imposing an embargo on it, began to demand, in one way or another, the lifting of the embargo. Indeed, Arab correspondents are dutybound to define what is required to urge the appropriate side to lift the embargo.

What does this specifically mean? The embargo includes many forms. Ahead of these is a ban on imports and exports. According to the UN Security Council resolutions, this form of the embargo allows exporting many commodities, ahead of which is foodstuffs, to Iraq. It also allows the return of Iraqi assets, which some Arab governments volunteered to freeze in submission to U.S. desires, as well as the return of Iraqi equipment kept as a trust in Arab countries. The governments of these countries decided not to return or even carry out maintenance work on this equipment.

In order to realize the imbalance in the stands of some Arab governments, we must note that foreign governments, including European governments, have recently released frozen Iraqi assets, and used the proceeds to send shipments of food and medicine. They did so because they understand that UN Security Council resolutions do not prevent this. These non-Arab governments explained their stand by saying: Iraq is carrying out its obligations and the UN Security Council resolutions are clear and permit dealing with Iraq under certain limitations.

However, many Arab governments have not reached in terms of their awareness of their interests and humanitarian feelings the level reached by European and non-European countries. Indeed, these Arab governments buried their pan-Arab affiliation when they turned their countries into shackles that impose the embargo and perpetuate it. Although the United States did not punish the non-Arab countries that are carrying out direct and frank trade deals with Iraq under well-known limitations, some Arab governments are reiterating a disgusting pretext by saying: We cannot deal with Iraq because we fear the U.S. reaction.

Thus, it is a pan-Arab, national, and humanitarian duty for Arab correspondent to break the embargo imposed against Iraq. They should do this by not being content with generalities. Rather, they should specifically and publicly tell their governments: Your adherence to the embargo directly contributes to prolonging the suffering of the Iraqi people, without there being any justification or need. U.S. pressure does not justify taking a serious step that does much more harm than the case would be if U.S. pressures were rejected. This is because an Arab stifling another Arab and starving him to death will have grave consequences in the future on each Arab country.

Within this context, honorable correspondents should subject their governments to some acid tests. So, if the government of a certain journalist holds Iraqi funds or equipment, then he should raise a basic slogan calling for their release and mobilizing the masses to pressure his government.

If the government of another correspondent plays the role of instigator, in public or secret, calling for maintaining the Iraq embargo, then he should expose this and not make peace with his government until it yields and gives in to the will of the people. Finally, all Arab correspondents are required to exercise public, concrete pressure on their governments to resume trade with Iraq, after UN committees have confirmed Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations. In addition to this, the justifications for adhering to the embargo no longer exist, legally speaking. It is more important to pay special attention to this aspect, since the anti-Arab powers, led by the United States, are no longer citing legal justifications for the embargo, and are citing instead political reasons, such as human rights and others.

Any truly nationalist and serious Arab government can strongly argue the case for its desire to end the embargo. International law, pan-Arab interests, and its own interests will support its case and necessitate its ending the embargo.

Some might wonder: But, Arab governments could resort to violence against correspondents. Well, our answer is clear. Supporting Iraq, belonging to Arabism, adhering to the right to a decent, free life, and defending independence are goals and principles that are not safeguarded by words, but by big sacrifices. The history of Arabs and humanity tells us that good intentions have no value unless they are supported by precious sacrifices.

Finally, it is necessary to raise a vital question. The embargo will definitely come to an end sooner than many people expect, so is it appropriate for any Arab, ruler or subject, to see that he has not actively contributed to lifting the embargo when foreigners are pouring into Iraq asking for forgiveness and opening a new chapter? This question is worthy of consideration and deliberation in order to draw some lessons, the most important of which is that great stands are not adopted by easy talk but by effective actions that are accompanied by great sacrifices.

BABIL Article Says U.S. New World Order 'Cannot Last'

JN2404101494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has said that the new world order adopted by the United States cannot last.

In an article published in BABIL today, Amir al-Hilu cast doubt about the ability of the United States to continue its hegemony as the sole international power that wants to control the world's resources after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc states.

He emphasized that the world cannot be run by a single power because this conflicts with the interests of countries, whether on their national level, or the level of the international blocs.

He said the negative impact of the U.S. policy of hegemony and undisputed domination has become clear. This policy, which depends on the logic of force, has a negative impact on the interests of other countries, as demonstrated in its domination of the United Nations and the Security Council and the adoption of resolutions that serve the U.S. politician without any considerations for the interests of other countries. This has happened and is happening now, represented in its insistence on maintaining the siege against Iraq, the threat to use force against Japan, and the intervention in Somali affairs.

The article emphasized that political and economic developments in today's world, which the U.S. Administration said will be stable and secure under the umbrella of its new world order, reflect the falseness of these claims because it is a chaotic world in which wars and military interventions prevail.

Paper: West Indifferent to Rights Abuses in Saudi Arabia

JN2404121394 Baghdad INA in English 0933 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 24 (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper said that the West which shed tears on human rights maintains indifference over human rights abuse in Saudi Arabia.

The paper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said the imperialist West defends the Saudi regime which throws Saudi strugglers from planes or leaves them in the Sahara to face horrible death.

The paper said that the Western political deception is an expression to the savageness of the colonialist mentality and disregard of human rights when the affair is not linked with its sphere of hegemony.

The paper said that human rights standard should be one in the world and must conform with the International Declaration of Human Rights and the UN charters and its correct and not selective applications.

The paper stressed that human rights in Saudi are abused while suspicious claims and lies are propagated by the American State Department against Sudan, Iraq and other countries.

Rabin Comments on Golan Withdrawal, Cairo Talks

TA2204172994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 22 April, place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabin] It is inconceivable that a political party [Likud] which had agreed to return everything in exchange for peace now claims it is possible to attain peace merely in exchange for peace. This is absurd, especially in light of the fact that these people are responsible for returning everything and uprooting all Israeli presence in order to achieve peace. Do they believe that by some hocus pocus we will be able to achieve peace with another Arab country by exchanging peace for peace? Not even one iota of the Sinai has remained in our hands. I will do everything to avoid such a price for peace.

[Israel Television in Arabic correspondent Menashe Bakhar] Are you preparing Israeli public opinion for painful concessions on the Golan Heights in the near future?

[Rabin] Look, in the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon we are not talking about interim arrangements. The letter of invitation to the Madrid conference referred to an interim arrangement only in relation to the Palestinians. We are not looking for interim arrangements with the Arab states, but rather for peace treaties. We have very little territorial problems vis-a-vis Jordan and Lebanon. With Syria, on the other hand, we have such problems indeed. I have always said that I personally, and the Labor Party of which I am a member, are ready to make territorial compromises. We have always said so, but previously these statements were not concrete, because Syria was not prepared to enter peace negotiations. Syria has started evincing willingness to enter the path of negotiations only in the wake of the changes in the international balance of power, the termination of the Cold War, and following the Gulf crisis. Generally speaking, I can say that Arab parties enter peace negotiations with us only after they reach the conclusion that they can get nothing from us by violent measures, whether this means all-out war or terrorism.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Regarding the talks in Cairo, there has been a lot of optimism about an agreement in early May. What new progress has been made, and what obstacles still lie ahead?

[Rabin, in English] There is a progress in the negotiations in Cairo, less in Paris on the economic issues. Therefore I believe that we are moving ahead. We are trying to reach an agreement which is acceptable to us as soon as possible. But I would not set any clear-cut date. I hope that by mid-May we might reach an agreement. The real problem is to reach an agreement in details. We need to go through all the details to prevent any misunderstandings once it is implemented. The implementation will take two or three weeks once the agreement will be signed.

Further on Rabin Remarks

NC2304065594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Muhammad al-Hinnawi in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hinnawi] Have there been contacts between you and 'Arafat following the recent acts of violence? Do you believe that more acts of reciprocal violence will adversely affect the peace process?

[Rabin] I believe that the Israeli Government and its prime minister and the PLO and its chairman Yasir 'Arafat must pursue two parallel courses simultaneously. The first course is to focus on the negotiations to reach an agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First accord. This, in my opinion, is the best response to the enemies of peace from among the Israelis and Palestinians. The second course is that when a mistake is made either by the Israelis or the Palestinians, such as an act of violence or terrorism, especially if it is directed against innocent people, we must show [sentence incomplete]. For example, the Hebron massacre, which was committed by a mentally disturbed Israeli murderer, is as serious as the attack on the bus that was carrying innocent Israelis. Both the Palestinian and Israeli sides must show that we have reached a point in which we are trying to resolve the conflict by negotiations and not by violence and terrorism. I myself did not listen to the shouts of the demonstrators in Israeli towns after the brutal acts which Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out in Afula and Hadera. I explained to the Israeli public that we will continue the negotiations without delay or postponement.

The PLO suspended the talks with Israel for a month following the Hebron massacre. A number of Israelis asked me why they stopped the talks after the Hebron massacre and we did not halt them after the terrorist attacks against us. My answer was that I am doing what I believe to be correct.

I explained this stand of mine in my telephone conversation with Chairman 'Arafat. I believe if we want to give a real response to the enemies of peace, we must show them that we can reach an agreement and implement it. Any terrorist activity and any act of violence against Israeli and Palestinian citizens aims at obstructing the attainment and implementation of an agreement. In the telephone conversation I explained to 'Arafat that we will continue the negotiations as scheduled on Sunday despite the terrorist acts. Our delegation will leave for Cairo to resume the talks on Monday. You might ask me why the talks were postponed from Sunday to Monday. My answer is that the postponement was in response to a request from the Palestinian side.

[Al-Hinnawi] Will an agreement be signed in Cairo between the Palestinians and Israel before the end of April and during the upcoming tour of the U.S. Secretary of State to the region?

[Rabin] In accordance to what was agreed upon in Cairo in December, we must take into consideration that if we do not prepare well for the upcoming meeting, it will mean failure. And failure means frustration and disappointment. Therefore, in the last meeting in Cairo we agreed on the following:

1. Whatever is agreed upon will be written down and initialed.

2. Matters on which no agreement is reached will be divided into two parts:

A. Topics necessary for inclusion in the agreements that precede the implementation.

B. Topics that we will continue to discuss but that are not in existing agreements; these are topics that will not prevent us from implementing the agreement. This is how we are working. I believe we have reached agreement on most solutions and basic points. Anything on which agreement is reached and which is signed must not be reopened for discussion. For example, the Declaration of Principles that we signed in Washington and the Cairo agreement and the maps appended to it will not be reopened for discussion. If we do this, we will be going around in a vicious circle. We have already wasted a lot of time discussing matters on which agreement had been reached in the previous two agreements.

[Al-Hinnawi] Certain reports say that if no agreement is reached by the end of this month, you will implement what was actually agreed upon.

[Rabin] We must sign an agreement that it is possible to implement. In other words, when we hold negotiations over peace with an Arab state, the agreement should be clear. Our negotiations must revolve around the meaning of peace, the issue of borders, the security arrangements, the stages of the implementation of the agreement, and whether the various stages will overlap in a way similar to what happened with Egypt.

But what we are trying to do with the Palestinians is peaceful coexistence without division or clear lines, because there are no dividing lines. For example, as regards the route between Gaza and Jericho and which falls within Israel's borders, we must allow the Palestinians to use this route. We must, therefore, agree on the security arrangements concerning this point. This is more difficult than reaching a peace agreement with Jordan, Lebanon, or even Syria. The agreement with the Palestinians is a temporary one, for self-rule. We have approved many of the Palestinians' demands because we don't want to waste time in search of this or that change.

[Al-Hinnawi] Did you start any unofficial secret talks with Syria as you did with the PLO far from the press and spotlights?

[Rabin] As far as I recall, we tried to arrange a quiet meeting with the Syrians. But they refused. I believe that without a quiet and unannounced meeting, it would be difficult to reach an agreement. Recent history explains this. Since 1977, no agreement has been reached without holding unannounced preliminary contacts. Even President Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem could not have been made had it not been for the unpublicized preliminary talks between al-Tuhami [an adviser to al-Sadat] and Moshe Dayan in Morocco during the summer of 1977. It was a long time before the majority of the Israeli cabinet members knew about these talks. The same thing happened with the other Arab countries. Let me say frankly, it would have been impossible to reach agreement with any Arab state and the PLO without the secret talks that preceded the publicized talks.

[Al-Hinnawi] Does the long calm on the Syrian front mean that Syria is fully concerned with peace and that President al-Asad is fully prepared for peace? And do you believe that Syria could accept something less than Egypt accepted during the complete withdrawal from the Egyptian territory? And is it conceivable that a government led by you could refuse to sign an agreement with Syria similar to that signed between the Likud and Egypt?

[Rabin] Let me tell you the real difference between the Egypt-Israel peace process and the situation between Syria and Israel. As regards Egypt, President al-Sadat took an extremely courageous step when he came to Israel. He managed to convince the Israeli people that there is an Egyptian leader who decided not to continue the war and confrontation and to get involved in the peace process and negotiations without this changing Egypt's view regarding the achievement of peace.

President al-Sadat did 80 percent of what was expected from the Israeli Government and the prime minister of that time in order to convince the Israeli people to pay the price of peace. The Israeli people hold the same feelings toward President Mubarak, who has for 12 and half years of the 15-year old peace between Egypt and Israel been safeguarding and promoting the peace process.

But President al-Asad has not done even one percent of what Egypt has done to establish peace. He did not even declare frankly his desire for peace. I agree with you that there are no acts of aggression on the Syrian-Israeli front. But had it not been for Syria's help, the 10 Palestinian rejectionist organizations led by Ahmad Jibril, Hawatimah, Habash, Abu-Musa, and others or even Hizballah would not be able to do what they are currently doing. Syria talks peace and at the same time allows these organizations to attack 'Arafat and the PLO because of their negotiations with Israel. Syria is not only hosting these organizations, but it also allows them to operate in Lebanon. Therefore, although Syria is not directly involved in acts of aggression against Israel, it has made it possible for them to act. These organizations would have never been able to act had it not been for Syria.

[Al-Hinnawi] Very well, Mr. Rabin. You said that when President Anwar al-Sadat came to Israel he did 80 percent of the Israeli Government's work, because he persuaded the Israelis that he was serious about peace. What if another Arab leader, President Hafiz al-Asad for example, were to visit Israel? Perhaps you would later conclude that he failed to impress the Israeli public with his seriousness about peace?

[Rabin] It is not necessary for al-Asad or anyone else to come to Israel. Let me tell you something. Why have I insisted that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations take place in Cairo and not Washington? To avoid publicity.

Another thing. We believe that Egypt has done so much and we appreciate that. We appreciate what President Husni Mubarak and his government are doing to help the two sides, quietly and backstage.

When Syria went to the Washington talks, the talks were conducted on a relatively small scale. However, every journalist expected a statement to come out of every meeting. This is not the best way to work things out. The talks should begin unofficially, quietly, and away from the media.

I would not call for a meeting between me and President al-Asad tomorrow. Such a meeting would not be useful without quiet preparations.

[Al-Hinnawi] Reports speak of rapprochement between Israel and a number of Arab countries. Can you clarify the picture for us a little?

[Rabin] I believe that peace between Egypt and Israel is what broke the ice between Israel and Arab countries. Undeniably, Egypt is the largest and most important Arab country. In my modest opinion, Egypt has proved that peace can be achieved and maintained.

Another thing. When I took over as prime minister, the Madrid Conference formula was already in place. We did nothing to change that formula, but sought to create another channel.

We figured that the two keys to peace in the region are in the hands of the Palestinians and the Syrians. Jordan wants to be out in front [as published]. Lebanon does not want to do anything without Syria's approval.

We studied the situation and reached the conclusion that it is better to begin with the Palestinians on the basis of two conditions; one is mutual recognition and the second is a statement of principles. We made a historic change in our policy toward the PLO. This change was based on the conditions we agreed upon and later the letters of mutual recognition appended to the Declaration of Principles.

Once we moved toward implementing the Declaration of Principles, the ball started rolling. For example, the multilateral talks of the Water Committee will begin in Muscat, Oman, today. Early next month, the Arms Limitation Committee of the multilateral talks will meet in Qatar. This would have been unthinkable only a year and half ago. We have begun to see change and its continuation depends to a large extent on the Palestinians and the Syrians.

As for Morocco, it has a large Jewish community. Actually, there is unofficial normalization between Morocco and Israel. Israeli citizens can go to Morocco to try and improve economic ties between the two countries. Israeli tourists are also allowed into Morocco.

You must not forget that, in 1977, King Hassan helped organize a meeting between senior Egyptian and Israeli officials in Morocco, a meeting that helped set the peace process in motion. Although there are no diplomatic ties between Israel and Morocco, relations between us are good.

Our relations with Tunisia may not be quite as good as those with Morocco. But the mere fact that the PLO leadership is located in Tunisia and that many Israelis, particularly journalists, go there is a measure of the level of relations between the two countries.

[Al-Hinnawi] Do you believe that Russia still has a part to play in the peace process?

[Rabin] Russia is one of the two countries sponsoring the peace talks. I will visit Moscow on 24 April to meet President Yeltsin. Chairman 'Arafat will also visit Russia to meet Yeltsin on 18 and 19 of this month.

[Al-Hinnawi] Is there not a possibility of a meeting between you and 'Arafat in Moscow?

[Rabin] I do not think so.

[Al-Hinnawi] Is U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region at the end of this month linked to the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Rabin] I do not think so. If we can reach an agreement during this time, it will be good. Christopher is coming to the region basically to give a boost to the multilateral talks.

[Al-Hinnawi] I would like to convey to you a message from the people of Gaza. I was there last week and saw for myself the extent of the people's suffering as a result of sealing off the Gaza Strip. The people in Gaza say that the recent acts of terrorism did not come from Gaza. The Israeli Army and police are imposing a security cordon around the city. Supplies of medicines and oxygen necessary for surgery have stopped and students are not going to their colleges and workers are not going to work. Will this continue?

[Rabin] This is untrue. I know nothing about the stoppage of medicine and oxygen supplies. I gave orders to supply the Gaza population with their needs. The territories were sealed only for those who come to work in Israel.

[Al-Hinnawi] Soldiers order drivers of vehicles carrying oxygen and heading for the Gaza Strip to go back.

[Rabin] There is absolutely no need for such measures. Even in Jerusalem we made special arrangements for doctors, nurses, and workers in Palestinian hospitals and Palestinians working for international organizations to go to work. All these workers obtained licenses enabling them to go to work. The same thing applies to Gaza.

[Al-Hinnawi] The Palestinians in Gaza are wondering why the Israeli Government is taking these measures right before its withdrawal and before the Palestinian authority undertakes its mission. Are these the good-neighborly relations that Israel is talking about? Israel is giving the worst picture of the future neighborly relations it is seeking.

[Rabin] Yes, but you must not forget that I do not know who will carry out the next terrorist operation.

[Al-Hinnawi] But you, Mr. Prime Minister, are meting out collective punishment that is harming innocent people.

[Rabin] I have no option but to continue sealing off the occupied areas in order to know what is going on and then to decide what I can do.

[Al-Hinnawi] Despite the security cordon imposed on the Gaza Strip, numerous acts of violence occurred recently. The Palestinians in Gaza are wondering about the use of this security seal.

[Rabin] You do not know the number of operations that have been foiled as a result of sealing off the territories. I told the Israelis that even after the territories were sealed off we could not completely prevent terrorist operations. In Jerusalem, for instance, the Palestinians used a vehicle with Israeli plates and were able to move in all parts of Israel. In certain areas the Israelis and Palestinians are only meters away from each other. There are no walls and we do not want walls. I would like to tell you as a fact that there are Israeli businessmen who have received Palestinian workers in the heart of Israel for months without obtaining a permit. We cannot search every house. In the two cases involving killing and violence, we found out that two Palestinians from Khan Yunus had been in Israel since December. The real problem is that the situation was so aggravated because of the Hebron massacre that certain members of terrorist organizations were aroused to the point that they decided in a moment of extreme anger to wield knives and hatchets to attack Israelis. Regrettably, no device has yet been invented to reveal man's inner intentions.

Rabin Puts 'Freeze' on Timetable for PLO Talks

TA2504075894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal, Aluf Ben, Gay Bekhor, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Yesterday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin put a freeze on the accelerated timetable for the completion of the talks with the PLO which Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat agreed on during their meetings in Bucharest last week. In view of the prime minister's reservations, there is doubt that the Peres-'Arafat meeting, scheduled for 28 April in Cairo, will indeed take place as planned. The final decision regarding the date of that meeting has been put off until after Rabin returns from Russia on 28 April. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Peres Said To Differ on Understandings With PLO

TA2404115794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] At today's cabinet session, the ministers learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disagree with regard to several understandings reached in the 'Arafat-Peres meetings in Bucharest last week. Foreign Minister Peres presented Prime Minister Rabin with the understandings this morning at Ben-Gurion Airport and several ministers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the meeting between the two men had been difficult.

According to one of the reports, Peres, speaking at today's cabinet session, said that the whole thing may not work.

After the cabinet meeting, Environment Minister Sarid asserted that there was no disagreement between the prime minister and the foreign minister. Sarid said that if accelerated, the negotiations could be concluded within two weeks. Sarid stressed that it had been agreed that no Palestinian prisoners with blood on their hands would be released.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the cabinet of progress in narrowing the differences between Israel and the PLO at the economic talks in Paris. He stressed that Israel was opposed to the Palestinian demand that every time a closure was imposed, Israel must fund busy work projects in the territories in order to compensate the workers subsequently left unemployed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 24 April reports that "Israel agrees to permit three Palestinian police battalions to enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho 24 hours after the signing of the autonomy agreement. These battalions comprise 1,050 policemen. This was reported by our political correspondent Udi Segal." Our correspondent adds that "at today's cabinet session, Police Minister Moshe Shahal criticized the Army for not including the police in the discussions on security arrangements with the Palestinians. Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed fears that 'Arafat's arrival in the territories would not be felt sufficiently and fail to herald a change in the eyes of the residents of the territories." The report notes that "Peres stressed the need to conclude the negotiations rapidly.

Several ministers reported that the prime minister was adamant in his refusal to make any concessions on issues pertaining to the symbols of sovereignty sought by the Palestinians, such as stamps, Palestinian currency, and passports."

More on Rabin, Peres Differences

TA2404123994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Differences of opinion between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over negotiations with the Palestinians are centered on whether Israel must sign the agreement within two weeks. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Peres in his talks with Yasir 'Arafat in Romania received the impression that if the agreement is not signed within two weeks, then, in his words, the whole thing will be a dead letter. Mr. Peres believes that the detailed negotiations on security should be finalized, the agreement signed, and the remaining issues worked out later. Mr. Rabin, on the other hand, believes that before the agreement is signed, issues touching on sovereignty, such as currency, stamps, and telephone dialing areas, should also be worked out.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said there is no dispute between Rabin and Peres. Minister Tzaban said the differences refer to the niceties, and Police Minister Shahal believes that the issue is a matter of different perspectives. He believes the full cabinet must be involved in the deliberations. Under the draft agreement Peres brought back from Romania, there will be a Peres-'Arafat meeting in Cairo on Thursday [28 April] in order to prepare a meeting between the Prime Minister Rabin and 'Arafat next week. The only issues which will remain unresolved at the Rabin-'Arafat will be the size of the Jericho area and the location of the Palestinian policeman deployed on the Jordan River bridge.

Peres' Bureau Denies Differences With Rabin

TA2404132194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' bureau announced that there is total agreement between Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the tactics and path to be taken in the negotiations with the PLO. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that this was said in response to the report that there are differences of opinion between the two on the negotiations with the Palestinians, which are focused on the issue of whether Israel must sign an agreement within two weeks.

Peres Comments on PLO Agreement, Syria

TA2304154694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report from Bucharest by political correspondent Udi Segal—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will sign the Gaza and Jericho agreement in two weeks. This is the Israeli and PLO working assumption at the close of a series of Peres-'Arafat meetings, here in Bucharest. At the same time, a precise date was not set in order to avoid creating yet another sacred date which might eventually be desecrated.

Foreign Ministry officials regard the meetings here as an important juncture in the political process and the negotiations with the PLO. The local press exaggerated in its banner headlines describing the meetings as a major landmark in the process between Israel and the Palestinians. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told us what the target dates are at this point:

[Begin recording] [Peres] There are three dates we have agreed on: One, is that our delegation, headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq, will go to Cairo on 24 April to work with the Palestinian delegation all next week. On 25 April we will man the three delegations which will deal with coordinating the hand-over: the security liaison committee, the committee on joint patrols, and the committee on transferring administrative powers. The third date we agreed on is 2 May. On that date two major committees of the donor countries will meet in Cairo—the committee on police affairs and the committee on current expenditure affairs—without which the Palestinians cannot practically begin establishing their own administration. Should this be called for by the situation and the need arise, 'Arafat and myself will travel to Cairo over the weekend [not further specified] to prepare all that is needed for the conclusion of the process, the ending of which will be attended by Israel's prime minister and the PLO chairman in Cairo.

[Segal] In view of your discussions with 'Arafat here, can you at this stage estimate whether you will be able to conclude all the issues during the coming week and reach the signing stage?

[Peres] I believe it is possible, though absolutely not certain. This is the reason why we avoided fixing dates. We did not want to set a date only to later postpone it by a day or even an hour. Therefore, some of the dates are rigid while others are flexible.

[Segal] What is there still left to be concluded in the negotiations?

[Peres] Our delegation will carry with it a written paper on the issue of jurisdiction which will determine who will be tried where and for what. We have to conclude the issue of the composition of the Palestinian council and its powers. We need to conclude the issues of airspace and territorial waters. We still need to wrap up the economic issues, as well as the manner of the population registration in the form of identity cards or some other form of identification. The number of issues still pending is not negligible.

[Segal] Judging from your meetings with 'Arafat and his men, do you believe they are ready to enter the territory of Gaza and Jericho despite the problems they know they will encounter when they do?

[Peres] Bottom line, I would say they are. At the same time, they are worried and, to be honest, they also doubt our intentions. The doubts are unjustified, but I am only making a point.

[Segal] What is you view of Yasir 'Arafat after the meetings? Can he really control the territory? Can you today calm the Israeli public which is afraid and worried—perhaps for good reason since the man has not yet proven himself on the ground—regarding future developments?

[Peres] There is no doubt that of all the Palestinian leaders, 'Arafat is the most prominent and authoritative. It must be said that over the past several years, three or four, 'Arafat has stepped down from the heights of declarations and out of the murderous stake outs onto the realistic grounds of negotiations. He will not receive all that he had stated in his declarations, although he may go on making them. It does not matter. In the end, he will compromise. A man should be judged by his deeds, not his words. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Peres will return to Israel tonight. Early tomorrow morning, he will hold a private meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before the latter leaves on an official visit to Moscow. As acting prime minister, Peres will return straight into the hectic political scene surrounding the Histadrut Labor Union elections and, on 28 April, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come to our region, and the focus of attention will shift to the Syrian track.

We asked Peres: Is there anything new in Rabin's remark that Israel will be willing to remove settlements from the Golan Heights in return for peace?

[Begin recording] [Peres] To some extent I believe there is. Still, I prefer a leader who does what he says to a leader who does the opposite of what he says.

[Segal] Are you referring to the late Menahem Begin?

[Peres] I do not feel comfortable with mentioning names, but the late Mr. Begin was not the only one. He had partners who still live among us. They made sky-high declarations while in practice they were left without a grain of Sinai sand under their shoes.

[Segal] Do you sincerely believe this is the price of peace with Syria?

[Peres] I would not like to comment on this. Look, we are at the very beginning of negotiations. I do not believe we need to say today everything that we intend to do. I do not believe we should come naked to the negotiations. [end recording]

Peres: Rabin Remarks Call For Signal From Syria

TA2404100194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that now, following Prime Minister Rabin's statements on the readiness to evacuate settlements on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, Syrian President al-Asad had good reason to emit positive signals toward Israel. The foreign minister told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the change indicated by Rabin's remarks lay in the statement itself and not in its content. The foreign minister added that the government realized that Syria was always slow to react.

Rabin Off to Moscow; Peres Expects Intense PLO Talks

TA2404064194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left for an official four-day visit to Moscow several minutes ago. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who together with the rest of the cabinet ministers accompanied Rabin to his flight, said that very intensive negotiations with the Palestinians were expected this week. If everything went well, Peres said, the negotiations may be concluded this week. If this does not turn out to be the case, the foreign minister added, we will have to find ways to accelerate the talks. This was reported by our correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda from Ben-Gurion airport.

'Sources' View Timing of Christopher Visit

TA2304191594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Syrians must finally understand that the prime minister is prepared to withdraw from practically the entire Golan Heights in exchange for full peace and appropriate security arrangements. This is the assessment of political circles in the wake of Rabin's recent statements. All this in anticipation of another Middle East shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, a mission which does not raise many hopes. Israeli sources believe this is a premature and consequently unwarranted shuttle at this stage. The prime minister is departing for an official visit to Russia tomorrow. The foreign minister, who serve as acting-prime minister, returns tonight from Romania following his meetings with 'Arafat. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

Shim'on Peres, who is returning this evening, will travel to Cairo next weekend, where he will meet 'Arafat's deputy Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and try to prepare the ground for a Rabin-'Arafat meeting in approximately two weeks—a meeting in which the two may sign the agreement on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. At the same time, more difficulties and delays are still expected to take place.

Rabin and Peres would prefer to implement the withdrawal from Gaza before making decisions on the Syrian track. Warren Christopher, however, is unwilling to accept any more delays. Christopher and his entourage will travel to the Middle East capitals next week and will arrive in Israel next Thursday, from where they will continue to Damascus. It is still unclear to where they will continue from there. Jerusalem sources express wonder about the timing of the trip, during which the signing of the agreement with the PLO is not expected to take place. Despite the slight expectations for an imminent breakthrough with Syria, Yitzhaq Rabin is increasingly clarifying his willingness to reach a compromise in the north. Now he is explicitly talking about a willingness to evacuate settlements and implement a deep withdrawal in exchange for peace. Most political circles in Israel are convinced that what Rabin is in fact signalling is as follows: Mr. al-Asad, now it is your turn. Prove to the Israelis you are heading toward full peace and willing to provide full security for Israel. I, for my part, will convince the Israelis that in exchange for this it is possible to implement a phased withdrawal from practically the entire Golan Heights.

Meanwhile Rabin will depart tomorrow for a first, four-day official visit of an Israeli prime minister to Russia, during which he will meet senior Russian leaders and representatives of the Jewish community. Rabin is not expected to have an easy time on the political level, because the Russians are insisting to have a more prominent role in our region—this without an appropriate level of coordination with the United States. President Yeltsin is facing nationalist pressures. The new Russian power politics increasingly remind Israeli figures of the old Soviet Union's methods during its heyday, a period which brings back bad memories in Israel.

Statement on Golan Seen Helping Christopher

TA2404114794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 94 p B1

[Editorial: "In the Lion's Den"]

[Text] The prime minister's address at the United Kibbutz Movement [UKM] Central Committee in Ef'al on 21 April should not be seen as only an appendix to his remarks at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier last week. The remark was a pointed and profound expansion of the earlier statement. Rabin chose to address the UKM of all forums for a good reason; it is tantamount to a lion's den for a person who previously said that he does not accept the extent of withdrawal on the Golan Heights as recommended by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff because it is too slight.

Yitzhaq Rabin did not tell the UKM where exactly the line of withdrawal he finds acceptable in terms of Israel's security needs lies and which takes "the necessitating political reality" into account. Rabin stressed that "the government is trying with all its might to struggle against repeating the precedent set by the Likud, which opposed a compromise (in the Sinai) and eventually gave everything back." The sincerity of this promise should not be doubted, yet he believed he should make clear the limited ability of the government to hold the line: "Settlements may be removed for peace, and I am for removing settlements for the sake of peace—which is more important for the future of the State of Israel than such or other group of settlements."

Jerusalem political circles have for a long time maintained that al-Asad cannot accept the continued existence of settlements on the Golan Heights, even if the IDF totally withdraws from it. This assumption is probably based on reliable information. The above quoted remarks by the prime minister should have dispersed the remaining illusions the UKM may have entertained, and this is probably why they were made.

Yitzhaq Rabin can be trusted to place the security aspect in a prominent place among his consideration, but he does not cling to the myth attributing a decisive security weight to settlements. Collective memory cultivates the stories of heroism of Deganya, Negba, and Yad Mordekhay, while discarding the stories of the evacuation of 'Atarot, Neve Ya'aqov, and Bet Ha'arava, and the loss of the 'Etzyon Bloc in 1948. Without explicitly reminding the UKM members of what happened on the Golan Heights in 1973, Rabin taught them a lesson: "Tanks on the Golan and a strong air force are the main guarantee that war with Syria would be prevented; the truth must be said."

Rabin's Ef'al appearance can also be viewed as a move meant to assist the U.S. secretary of state on the eve of his Syria visit. The secretary should be equipped with evidence that Israel is willing to uproot settlements from the Golan Heights. Rabin's appearance at the UKM Central Committee was meant to encourage the U.S. mediator. The State Department's reaction indicates that this goal was achieved. The unanswered question remains, however, whether al-Asad would settle for a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights, even if it includes the evacuation of settlements.

It may well be that Rabin made the two gestures in vain, but even so, they are not unnecessary. A protest can be made against Rabin's statement that "if this year or by mid-1995 no progress is made with Syria and the Palestinians, the result might be military tension and political freeze." Such a warning might encourage al-Asad to insist on a full Israeli withdrawal. It appears, however, that Rabin believes that peace with Syria is the most solid guarantee against war with Syria, and that we should not be intimidated by the high price we might pay for the attainment of this goal.

Also, there is no telling whether al-Asad would be willing to make a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights should the United States in return eliminate Syria from the list of countries which support international terrorism and drug trafficking. Much will depend on the amount of pressure the secretary of state is willing to exert while in Damascus.

Syrian Reaction Received 'With Satisfaction'

TA2404101294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Apr 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and correspondent in Bucharest Orly Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpts] Damascus' official papers yesterday praised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark that he would be willing to evacuate settlements from the Golan in the framework of a peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Last night, Jerusalem received the Syrian reaction to Rabin's remarks with satisfaction. Political sources view the Syrian statements as a reply to Rabin's "public diplomacy" vis-a-vis Damascus. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem hopes that, during his upcoming visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will take advantage of both countries' reciprocal signals and work to promote the arrangement between Syria and Israel. [passage omitted]

Yesterday in Bucharest, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told YEDI'OT AHARONOT that when he met PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the latter asked: "Why did Rabin say he is willing to remove settlements from the Golan in return for peace, and is unwilling to evacuate settlers for peace with the Palestinians.?"

Peres: "I explained that Rabin's remarks are not solely related to the Golan Heights, but to all sectors. We are all in favor of the principle of territories for peace, but there is no need to deal with evacuating settlements at this time. I was very glad to hear that Rabin himself corrected his remarks the next day. Otherwise, his statement could have harmed the negotiations with the Palestinians."

Peres was referring to Rabin's clarification that leaving Jewish residents under Syrian sovereignty on the Golan would be irresponsible. [passage omitted]

Golan Settlers, Opposition Reject Rabin Remarks

TA2104124694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Sharp reactions to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks concerning his willingness to remove Golan settlements for the sake of peace have been voiced in the Golan settlements and the political establishment. The Golan Heights Settlements Committee says the remarks undermine the existence of all the settlements in the north and raise a question about the country's future.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says Rabin's remarks attest to the total political collapse of a weak prime minister. Rabin disavows his commitment to the settlements' continued existence and the control of the Golan in the peace era as well, Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu says.

The Tzomet faction is demanding that the prime minister announce immediate elections in order to allow the people to decide whether Golan settlements should be removed. MK Refa'el Eytan says that Rabin has apparently been lying to the nation for a long time.

The National Religious Party says the prime minister is forfeiting the Jewish people's assets like a political greenhorn.

Jordan Valley Settlers Reject Palestinian Police

TA2104172494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Jordan Valley Settlements Committee has announced that the Jordan Rift Valley inhabitants will not recognize the authority of the autonomy police and of the Palestinian courts.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the statement was made in a letter the committee wrote to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Employment of 4,000 Palestinians Authorized

TA2404063194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has authorized the entry of another 4,000 Palestinian laborers from the territories to work in Israel. Approximately half of them will be employed in industry while the other half will work in agriculture. This authorization applies to married Palestinians over the age of 27 who have worked in Israel for over five years.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehman notes that with the addition of these workers, the number of laborers from the territories working in Israel is now equal to the number of those employed prior to the decision to impose a full closure.

Labor Party Expels Ramon, 2 Other MK's

TA2104170294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Handler]

[Excerpt] With about a 24-hour delay, Knesset Members [MK's] Hayim Ramon, 'Amir Peretz, and Shmu'el Avital today received letters expelling them from the Labor party. The letters, sent by the Labor headquarters, advised them that under the party constitution, they are no longer Labor members. The other Labor members included in Ramon's Histadrut elections list will receive similar letters after the headquarters check the matter with each of them. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 21 April cites the Labor spokesman as saying that "the Ramon list includes 25 Labor members, and they will receive expulsion letters tonight and tomorrow. MK Ramon has said that the list he had submitted to the election committee includes 300 to 400 Labor members."]

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin again attacked the Ramon list which, he said, is liable to harm the peace process. Addressing the United Kibbutzim Movement convention in Ramat Ef'al today, the prime minister again warned: Ramon and his list will harm the government operation. [passage omitted]

National Endurance Faulted in Facing Terrorism

TA2404154994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 24 Apr 94 p 5

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Evincing Weakness"]

[Text] On paper our security and political situation looks quite encouraging. Strategic balances being published by the most respectable and serious international research institutes unequivocally state Israel can successfully confront any military threat, which means that its political bargaining power is also better than ever. Experts assess this situation will continue at least until Iran or Iraq purchase or develop nuclear bombs. The military-technical assessment, however, does not reflect the real situation, because it fails to take into consideration the dangerous erosion since the Six-Day War in the Israeli public's stamina during security crises and emergencies.

A public's or nation's endurance in emergency situations is reflected in its ability to maintain normal life, in a greater-than-usual willingness to join the national effort in overcoming the crisis, and in high morale. What we witnessed in Israel is the exact opposite.

The hysterical reaction to every terror attack indicates that a large proportion of the population—actively encouraged by the opposition—refuses to recognize the fact that the peace process is still not peace itself; that making peace is a difficult and lengthy process; that the political and military war of attrition being waged against us by the Palestinians and Syria during the negotiations process itself, is an inseparable part of making peace.

The historians who will research this phenomenon will probably reach the conclusion that the role of occupier and oppressor, forced on us after the Six-Day War, was one of the main factors causing us to have no faith in our national cause and harming our motivation to fight and suffer for this cause. Even those who reject this interpretation will find it hard to ignore or deny the symptoms: Instead of the public volunteering en masse to the Civil Guard, thus helping foil terrorism, we find that school trips are being canceled (even to places where there is no danger at all); instead of wide- scale demonstrations of national unity and determination, every terror attack results in whining, hysterics, and boundless abuse hurled at the government.

It does not take a military expert to realize that Palestinian and Lebanese terrorism is currently receiving a lot of positive feedback, a thing which only increases its activity. It also does not take a political expert to recognize the damage done to Israel's bargaining power in the negotiations.

The Likud and the right-wing parties, which encourage these demonstrations of national weakness and try to score political points from them, are evincing extraordinary shortsightedness. The erosion in public endurance will boomerang against them if and when they come to power. The same holds true for the settlers. Meanwhile, however, it is the government which is under pressure—and those who come under pressure make mistakes. The eroding public support and the nearing elections are pushing Rabin and Peres into a corner from which they make decisions and issue statements which do not always serve Israel's vital interests. Rabin's statement on his agreement in principle to disband settlements on the Golan Heights is an excellent example of a premature concession made under pressure.

In war as in peace, he wins who has the higher motivation and endurance, even if the military balance of power is against him. Britain, for example, won World War II thanks to the British public's endurance during the German blitz on London; The Afghan Mujaheddin organization managed to beat a vastly superior Soviet-Afghan army; and let us admit: the Palestinians brought us to the negotiating table because they evinced great endurance and stamina during the intifadah. The ongoing erosion in the Israeli public's endurance harms our ability to achieve reasonable peace and security in the negotiations. This situation, however, is not irreversible. With the help of an intensive information campaign, the government can change the national mood and cause the public to show more understanding toward its moves and a situation wherein political negotiations are being conducted alongside a war of attrition.

IDF Soldier Wounded by Gunshots in Nabulus

TA2304131294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was seriously wounded by shots fired at an IDF observation post at the entrance to the police station in downtown Nabulus. The shots were fired from a nearby post office. The soldier was hospitalized at the Sheba Medical Center.

Jewish Settler Wounded in Hebron Ax Attack

TA2404111694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] A Qiryat Arba' resident was attacked near Bet Hadassah in Hebron by two terrorists this afternoon. He was injured after being hit in the head chin, and shoulder. The man is satisfactory. He received first aid at the scene and was evacuated to Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem hospital. This was reported by our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky, Ron Nesi'el, and 'Ofra Nehmad.

An Arab youth was captured in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. He is suspected of snatching a handgun from an Israeli citizen at the industrial zone near the Erez checkpoint. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the youth was not found in possession of the handgun and he is now being interrogated.

'Terrorist' Killed in Qatif Bloc Attack

TA2304092394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] This morning, terrorists entered the settlement of Neve Deqalim in the Qatif Bloc and stabbed one of the settlers. She was flown to the Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where her condition was determined to be moderate and stable.

Our correspondent Amir Rapoport reports that residents of the settlement fired at the terrorists, killing one and injuring another. Israel Television correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the security forces are currently carrying out an intensive search for additional terrorists who may have taken part in the attack.

'Source' Reports King To Meet Christopher in London

JN2304080094 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at his place of residence in London the day after tomorrow, Monday.

A responsible Jordanian source has said that the talks during the meeting will focus on developments in the peace process in the Middle East.

The source said that His Majesty King Husayn will emphasize Jordan's decision to suspend its participation in the peace talks if the sea blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah continues.

The source noted that preliminary information indicates that the U.S. Administration intends to take certain measures to resolve the problem of the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah.

It is worth mentioning that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will this week begin a tour of a number of Middle East countries with the objective of reactivating the peace process in the region. The tour will include Syria, Egypt, and Israel.

Husayn-Christopher London Meeting Viewed

JN2504065894 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Husayn-Christopher Meeting and the Sought Success"]

[Text] There are positive signs in the American position indicating that the scheduled meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher will be a success.

The recent statements by President Clinton and Christopher on the cordial relations between Jordan and Washington and the siege of al-'Aqabah show that the U.S. Administration understands, or almost understands, the great damage inflicted by the embargo on Jordan's economy and trade.

Furthermore, there is remarkable U.S. interest in activating the peace process and ending the crises on all tracks.

We hope the U.S. secretary will bring something new regarding the U.S. stand vis-a-vis the siege imposed on Jordan. The lifting of the siege would rejuvenate Jordanian enthusiasm on role its in the peace process, particularly if Israel agrees to discuss all unresolved issues, such as water, borders, refugees, and Jerusalem.

The important thing is to see the U.S. Administration end its bias toward Israel and work to force Israel to hold negotiations based on withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land for peace formula.

The success of the Husayn-Christopher meeting in London today will be an important indicator of U.S. interest in activating the peace process and rendering it a success on all tracks. During his meeting with the U.S. secretary today, King Husayn will speak in the name of all cordon states and will reiterate the principles of the Arab position with regard to the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

We hope Secretary Christopher will respond to this position.

Solution to Jordanian-U.S. Conflict 'Unlikely'

JN2304080894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Article by JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the United States are unlikely to resolve their conflict over the U.S.-led naval blockade of al-'Aqabah this week despite assurances by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he will present His Majesty King Husayn with "some suggestions" to ease the burden on Jordan of the sanctions against Iraq, sources said Friday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said any resolution to the dispute will have to be worked out in the Washington-based negotiations of the Jordanian proposal to replace the sea-inspections of al-'Aqabah bound shipping with onshore inspection by the British company Lloyds Register. But negotiators are unlikely to reach a final agreement by Monday when Mr. Christopher is scheduled to meet with King Husayn in London, the sources said.

Jordan made its proposal in January after rejecting a U.S. proposal in August to have the international naval forces enforcing the embargo on Iraq conduct their inspection in al-'Aqabah as an encroachment upon its sovereignty.

Sources told the JORDAN TIMES that the United States had accepted the Jordanian proposal in principle but bureaucratic and technical problems have delayed an agreement.

Jordanian officials brushed aside these "pretexts," saying the blockade is part of U.S. pressure on Jordan to coerce it into signing a separate peace treaty with Israel. They said that the Central intelligence Agency (CIA) was opposing any easing of the blockade on Jordan as its position is still influenced by the Kingdom's stand during the Gulf crisis.

King Husayn in March linked Jordan's return to the Arab-Israeli peace talks to the lifting of the siege on al-'Aqabah.

Sources say the King's strong stand on the issue might have highlighted the importance of the issue to Jordan among U.S. officials who had not seen the significance that the Kingdom attached to it.

Officials and shipping sources say the blockade, which has produced strong anger against the United States among Jordanians, has incurred enormous economic losses on the Kingdom despite its adherence to the sanctions against Iraq.

Officials point to the non-existence of inspection operations against neighbouring countries which have trade links with Iraq as proof that the al-'Aqabah blockade is intended to pressure Jordan.

"The fact that we are singled out and nobody is interested in finding out what trade with Iraq goes out from Turkey, Syria and Iran is an indelible proof that the purpose is to pressure Jordan," Jordanian official said.

Jordanian officials said the U.S. has also been exercising pressure on Jordan by demanding that the Kingdom take action against companies which it alleges are acting as a front for Iraq.

The official said the U.S. had been using "non-paper diplomacy" with Jordan by providing it with lists of companies that it claims are working for Iraq and demanding action against them.

But after investigating these companies, officials said, the government found nothing illegal about their operations and informed the United States that the Kingdom cannot take any action against them because they are violating neither Jordanian laws nor the sanctions regime against Iraq.

One official said the U.S. has linked a solution to the al-'Aqabah siege to a crack down on these companies whose number could not be determined.

"The U.S. is applying double pressure on Jordan. It is applying gunboat diplomacy and non-paper diplomacy," said prominent Parliament Member 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti.

But the U.S. Embassy in Amman denied that there is any link between the two situations.

"The (U.S.) embassy denies the link between the alleged list or lists of Iraqi companies and the discussions between Jordan and the United States to alleviate the economic burden" on Jordan from the inspection operations in al-'Aqabah, said an embassy official.

Sources said that some U.S. agencies were not satisfied with the mechanism through which Jordan investigated the operations of the alleged front companies for Iraq. They added that some U.S. departments involved in the negotiations over the inspection operations want to see Jordan take action against these companies as a proof of the "reliability" in enforcing the sanctions against Iraq.

But Jordanian officials rejected these explanations, insisting that like the siege on al-'Aqabah, demands for action against these companies are part of the pressure the U.S. has been applying on Jordan to achieve political goals.

Government Criticized for Receiving U.S. Warship Crew

JN2504100594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Ahmad al-Yamani]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Citizens here question the seriousness of the government in rejecting the U.S. blackmail practiced by Washington against Jordan through its warships' siege on the Jordanian port, which has inflicted huge economic damage on the homeland and citizens.

Three days after King Husayn's announcement on the issue of al-'Aqabah, the U.S. reaction was an escalation in the piracy of the U.S. fleet that is besieging the port and preventing many ships from reaching it.

Instead of hardening the Jordanian stand, which was announced by his majesty the king and largely supported by the Jordanians, we noticed that our government has ignored all this and received the U.S. warship "USS John Hancock" and its officers and sailors in the port that they are besieging. The officers and sailors of this U.S. warship were warmly welcomed by officials and were provided with recreation facilities. After relaxing in our country, they returned to continue their siege through their piracy and arrogance.

Popular organizations, trade unions, women's and student's federations, and political forces in al-'Aqabah sent a cable to the prime minister and to the speakers and members of the Parliament on 12 April in which they protested the visit to the Port of al-'Aqabah by a U.S. warship. The cable reads:

Allowing the enemies of the nation—whom we are still fighting—to anchor their fleet ships at our ports, land their military planes at our airports, and send their troops to our country for rest and recreation is a blatant betrayal of our citizens' feelings and disregards their honorable pan-Arab stands.

British Envoy Terms al-'Aqabah Blockade 'Excessive'

JN2404064394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 94 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ian Atalla]

[Excerpt] Amman—The United Kingdom feels that the current U.N. enforced naval blockade of al-'Aqabah should be modified, said British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Saturday [23 April] at the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC).

"My government has felt for some time that the blockade is excessive, and that Jordan is suffering as a result," said Mr. Hinchcliffe. "We would like to see a change in the method of how the U.N. regulations are enforced."

"As well, British exports to Jordan have suffered as a result of this blockade," Mr. Hinchcliffe said at the ACC meeting with a visiting commercial delegation of the South of England Exporters Association (SEEA).

Mr. Hinchcliffe spoke after ACC President Muhammad 'Asfur emphasised to the ambassador and the SEEA delegation Jordanians' sense of indignation and frustration towards the blockade, and said that since it had begun, "some 1,800 ships have come to al-'Aqabah, and not one ship was found in violation of the U.N. resolutions."

Members of the ACC also said that more ways should be found to address the vastly unequal trade balance between the two nations. Where England exported JD 127.9 million worth of goods and services to Jordan in 1993, according to available statistics, Jordanian exports to England totalled a mere JD 2.5 million in the same period.

The ACC suggested an increase in joint venture projects between Jordan and Britain to the SEEA delegation as a means towards alleviating the current situation, but Mr. 'Asfur cautioned that "we have suffered before in such programmes." [passage omitted]

Mr. Hinchcliffe told the ACC group that Britain was currently working on drawing up a number of mutual tax agreements with Jordan which would add to facilitating trade between the two countries.

The SEEA delegation arrived in Amman Friday evening after a visit to Lebanon, and will stay in Jordan until April 26.

French Embassy 'Sources' on al-'Aqabah Blockade

JN2404082694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Apr 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Sources at the French Embassy in Amman reiterated France's position, which supports and understands the Jordanian proposals on stopping naval inspections off the Port of al-'Aqabah and moving the inspections into the port while maintaining the effectiveness of trade sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, these sources said France supports in principle inspections on land, saying this will ease the economic burden on Jordan caused by ship inspections in the Red Sea.

These sources called for expediting measures to end the restrictions imposed on free navigation into the Port of al-'Aqabah, and pointed out His Majesty King Husayn's position on this subject, which calls for lifting and easing these measures before Jordan returns to the negotiations table.

The sources emphasized that France has held several contacts with Jordan on this issue in its capacity as a country directly concerned in this subject, in addition to contacts France has conducted with European countries and the United States in order to reach an agreement on the ideal way to carry out inspections and ease the burden on Jordan.

Article Urges Resisting U.S. 'Blockade'

JN2304163294 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 18-19

[Article by the political editor: "Jordan Is A Homeland, Not An Eggshell; They Are Threatening Us With The Blockade and Tomorrow Will Ask Us For More; If We Do Not Resist Now, We Will Never Resist"]

[Text] Each time, they used to tell us: Our country is targeted, in terms of its regime, stability, and political entity. However, we are still the most ancient state in Arab Asia, according to the modern concept of the state. In a few years from now, Jordan's political age will be three-quarters of a century. Archaeologists, moreover, have found in 'Ayn Ghazal a fine agricultural settlement established around the Amman waters more than 6,000 years ago.

They used to say Jordan was targeted. We knew our country was targeted. However, they told us this to instill fear in our hearts and make us silent. This is because it is natural for us, when the homeland is in danger, to mobilize the sons of the homeland to defend its security, stability, and political entity, rather than be afraid and remain silent.

For years now, the U.S. blockade has been eating away our country. Before Tawfiq Qa'war [president of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association] raised his voice, a colleague of ours at AL-RA'Y came to us with photos taken by the captain of a ship that was bound for al-'Aqabah with metal pipes on board. The photos show clearly how the U.S. Navy was throwing the pipes into the sea because the "telephone number of the Jordanian importer on the shipping papers was nor legible." The captain of the ship, who is a foreigner, gave the pictures to the press because he was angry and wanted to enrage the public and show the world the vileness of U.S. force. However, our government remained silent.

When Tariq Masarwah wrote in AL-RA'Y and when Tawfiq Qa'war gave a statement to AL-RA'Y on everything that was happening in the Gulf of Aqaba, we heard many officials say: "Brothers, our country is targeted, so please let us wisely handle this question with Washington."

Voices of protest got louder and the "wise handling" of the affair continued. Christopher then came twice to our country and he promised that "the subject will be reviewed." At an Amman hotel, Christopher gave us glad tidings about future prosperity and affluence once peace is established. When one of those who attended the dinner—during which Christopher gave the glad tidings—raised the question of the al-'Aqabah blockade, the eloquent boy said "his government will look at this issue with compassion". The problem exacerbated and the measures of the blockade doubled after each promise.

His majesty the king, known for his legendary patience, discussed the question of the blockade with the U.S. President. His royal highness the crown prince also raised the question of the blockade when he visited the United States. They told us: Let him shake hands with a criminal like Shim'on Peres and we will ease the burden of Jordan's debts on the economy and we will lift the blockade of al-'Aqabah. And so we accepted the image of our decent, respectable prince extend his hand to a killer for the good of our country. However, nothing happened and the blockade was tightened and words of caution also increased, such as: Brothers, there is no need for harsh talk in the press because our country is targeted.

When things came to a head, his majesty the king summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council member states. He delivered an unequivocal message: We cannot continue to participate effectively in the peace process while pressure and the blockade are continuing against us.

Quickly, those who are "concerned" about Jordan more than King Husayn started to explain the king's words and once again gave us their magical sentence: Brothers, our country is targeted, so let us work quietly. Do you want us to clash with the United States?

What strange words. The blockade has been in place for more than two and one-half years and losses have amounted to a billion dollars. How much longer will the people accept the seriousness of this quiet, wise approach?

The people do not want to fight America. However, they are asked to defend their country's interests in the face of the tyrant. Washington is using pressure to force us to be the next meal, so as to devour us after the Palestinians. The embargo against Iraq is a lie. It is no secret that we are with Iraq and with the Iraqis who are being starved by the embargo, and with the Iraqis who give us oil, while they are in a situation which we know very well. Are we exporting to Iraq Jordanian-made tanks, missiles, and nuclear reactors?

We said to ourselves that the multilateral negotiations on water issues will be held in Muscat on 17 April, so why don't we show up, especially since these negotiations, in the absence of Syria and Lebanon, are no more than an distasteful symposium used by Israeli media to show Israelis tell lies in an Arab capital, while killing the Arabs of Palestine on the streets and in the mosques. Once again, we heard the handy sentence: Brothers, our country is targeted. We will send a very low-level observer, not a negotiator, maybe a third secretary at the embassy.

Washington and Tel Aviv do not want a Jordanian negotiator, because there are no negotiations. So why don't we declare our boycott of the multilaterals and deliver a clear threat to boycott the bilaterals?

Following his majesty's meeting with the five ambassadors in Amman, Washington expedited the meetings of its subcommittee that is in charge of the al-'Aqabah blockade. But following the clever statement that "interpreted the king's words" and "declared the government's support for it" Washington postponed the meetings of the subcommittee. It was clear that it would drag this question to the Muscat meetings to break his majesty's position.

This week, we have seen viler U.S. and Israeli behavior. The blockade was tightened. Rabin and Peres have warned our country because a Hamas statement about the Hadera operation came from Amman, just as it was issued from London and from every place where there is a fax machine. U.S. newspapers and news magazines have started to talk about the smuggling of U.S. military technology via Jordan and Jordan's import of sophisticated U.S. monitoring equipment that can pick up U.S. military contacts in the region.

This indecent, off-color talk is full of ill-concocted lies that are strangely in harmony with the statements made by those "concerned" about Jordan in Amman when they say: Brothers, our country is targeted. Brothers, give us a chance to work out things quietly, etc.

But how are you going to resolve these problems? Has the al-'Aqabah blockade been lifted? Do you believe that Hamas is in Amman when you see with your own eyes that it is in 'Afula, Gaza, and Hadera? Do we have monitoring equipment that can pick up the contacts of U.S. fleets and aircraft? If a U.S. firm is smuggling technology to Iraq, then do you want to keep it from smuggling in Amman? Why don't the Americans themselves prevent it?

The problem is that U.S. and Israeli pressures have a serious parallel trend on the local scene. This parallel trend attracts groups in banks, markets, and Amman's velvet salons. Those people are "concerned" about Jordan, while all of them despise Jordan's interests, dignity, and Arabism. The measure they adopt is: The financial market has come to a standstill; real estate prices are falling; capital is worried, and all such off-color, vile talk that turns the concept of a homeland into one of a tourist and a hotel.

We say: When the homeland is targeted, what is required is to sharpen the people's national will to defend their homeland; and when Jordan's stability is targeted, then courage, not cowardice, is the shield of the homeland and the citizen.

When Washington and Tel Aviv threaten our interests and destiny, then our reaction should be: No. We should not submit and give in. They are threatening us with the blockade because they will ask us for more tomorrow. If we do not resist now, we will not resist tomorrow.

Those who show "concern" laugh when we say: Our people. They also laugh when we say: Our national will and the dignity of our country. And if they condescend and reply to us, they will say without any shame: Brothers, where do you live? Have you not seen what happens to those who say no? But when we ask them: Can you tell us what happens to those who say yes, they turn their faces away.

We say: Our country is not an eggshell. It is a true homeland that deserves our fighting any party for its good.

IAF Leaders Promised No More Action Against Hamas

JN2504085694 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Fahd al-Rimawi]

[Text] Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir returned quickly to his palace in al-Hummar [near Amman] when he learned that his guests had arrived. The guests were received by his friend [former minister] Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, while another friend, Dhuqan al-Hindawi, member of the Senate, also arrived early for the luncheon.

Al-Sharif Zayd was late because he was attending the celebration on the completion of the al-Aqsa reconstruction work, which took place on Monday [18 April]. On the same day, the chief of the Royal Court hosted a working luncheon for a delegation of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], including Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan [secretary general of the IAF], Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat [member of the Senate], and Deputy Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, to discuss the developments between the government and the Hamas Movement.

Abu-Shakir [Zayd Bin-Shakir] began by saying that the confiscation of the passports of [Hamas officials] Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah is the last measure to be taken by the Jordanian Government against Hamas leaders. He added that the government has no intention of taking any repressive measures, such as the closing down of the Hamas offices or the deportation of its leaders from Jordan.

Al-Sharif Zayd then hinted that this measure was taken not out of a Jordanian conviction, but under Israeli-American pressure on the eve of Christopher's shuttle tour of the Middle East. He then said: We provided the Hamas leaders with security protection in their capacity as Jordanian citizens.

Dr. 'Arabiyat, who did not speak much during the luncheon, noted that the Israeli-U.S. objective for which they are exerting pressure on Jordan and Hamas is to peddle the Oslo accord, remove all obstacles on its road, and strike at national unity in the Jordanian arena by driving a wedge between the government and the Islamic current. 'Arabiyat added: We, in both sides, should remain alert and prevent the schemes and attempts to drive wedges from affecting our ranks.

Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah spoke more frankly than the others. After joking with al-Sharif Zayd more than once, he reiterated the strong relationship between the Jordanian rule and the Islamic Movement. He then firmly asked that the restrictions on Hamas leaders not exceed the confiscation of passports and that the confiscation be temporary, until the Israeli-U.S. storm calms down. Al-'Akayilah then smartly warned against striking at the fundamentalists like Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan briefly touched on the ideological aspect of the issue and called for coherence and solidarity, not estrangement, between the various forces and currents. He also called for coherence and solidarity from top to bottom under these delicate Jordanian and Arab conditions.

Dr. al-Farhan said: The IAF has begun an effort to close ranks and to lay down a political framework that would include all nationalists and Islamists in Jordan now that all illusions about a contradiction between Arabism and Islam have been disproved.

Al-Sharif Zayd, who looked strong and confident in his role in bridging gaps and running things, and who was pleased with the poem presented by Haydar Mahmud [Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia] at the Dome of the Rock renovation celebration, told his guests at the end of the working luncheon, which lasted four hours, that he would brief his majesty the king on what took place during the working luncheon and that he intentionally invited them to have lunch at his house instead of meeting them at his office. He added that he wanted the meeting, which was requested by the Islamists, to be separated from protocol and journalists so that the relationship between the leaders and the Islamic Movement could remain cordial and fraternal and based on dialogue and understanding regardless of the different views and interpretations.

King Undergoes Successful Ear Surgery

JN2104161994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Dr. Samir Farraj, His Majesty King Husayn's private doctor, has announced that his majesty underwent surgery on the left middle ear in London this morning and that the surgery was a complete success, thanks be to God.

His Majesty King Husayn, may God bless him, will leave the hospital tomorrow morning, God willing.

'Judicial Sources' on Iraqi Diplomats 'Fully' Confessing

NC2304110394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, 23 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese judicial sources today stated that during the preliminary interrogation yesterday, Iraqi diplomat Deputy Consul 'Ali Sultan Darwish and chief of embassy guards Hadi Hasan confessed fully to the assassination of Iraqi opposition member Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi in his home in Beirut.

The sources said that during the 12-hour interrogation yesterday, Hadi Hasan gave a full confession on how the crime was planned in coordination with Muhammad Faris Kadhim, chief of intelligence at the Iraqi embassy, and defendants Khalid Khalaf, 'Ali Sultan Darwish, and George Tarjian.

According to Hasan, Kadhim had asked him to assassinate al-Tamimi at the orders of the Iraqi intelligence in Baghdad, after furnishing him with the crime weapon.

The sources note that defendant 'Ali Sultan Darwish confessed to planning and preparing to carry out the crime with his colleagues and to hiding weapons, particularly the murder weapon.

Darwish said that the Iraqi intelligence in Baghdad had issued orders to assassinate al-Tamimi at once as an opponent of Saddam Husayn's regime. He confessed to committing the crime with his colleagues.

The investigating judge has ordered the extension of the defendants' remand in solitary confinement, and prevented visitors. The number of persons implicated in the case has thus risen to five, including three diplomats.

Ba'th Leader Condemns Breaking Ties

JN2304102794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Nicosia, 23 Apr (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, secretary of the Lebanon Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and former member of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has condemned the Lebanese Government's decision to sever diplomatic ties with Iraq, describing it as a decision that is lacking in patriotic and pan-Arab sentiments, as well as any legal or legitimate grounds.

In statements carried by Arab and foreign media organizations in Nicosia, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i asserted that the Lebanese people cannot but be supportive of Iraq, which has strongly nurtured their struggle in the course of their defense of their national unity and promoted their steadfastness on their national soil to enable them to liberate it from the filth of the Zionist enemy.

Al-Rafi'i noted that the Lebanese Government's decision to sever ties with Iraq is part of a conspiratorial scenario targeting both Iraq and Lebanon.

Al-Rafi'i urged the nationalist and pan-Arab forces that are opposed to the subjugation of the Lebanese political decisionmaking process to close their ranks and overlook their differences to save Lebanon from the current state of loss and thwart the schemes that aim to eliminate its sovereignty.

Al-Rafi'i also condemned the campaign of arrests targeting nationalist and pan-Arab figures in Lebanon, which is coupled with another campaign aimed to muzzle intellectual freedom and heavily censor various Lebanese media organizations.

Ja'ja' Remains in Custody; Supporters Demonstrate

NC2304053094 London MBC Television in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Lebanese investigators are still questioning Samir Ja'ja', commander of the banned Lebanese Forces militia, about a church bombing and the murder of his Christian rival Dani Sham'un. Ja'ja''s supporters continue to demonstrate on his behalf, prompting the Lebanese Army to deploy more troops in east Beirut.

Army personnel detained Ja'ja' last night and took him to the Defense Ministry for questioning. Ja'ja' denied any involvement of the banned Lebanese Forces in the church bombing or Sham'un's killing.

According to Lebanese Defense Ministry sources, Ja'ja' is being held in one of the Ministry's offices. He was questioned today and is expected to remain in custody until 25 April at least. About 300 supporters of Ja'ja' demonstrated today. Others congregated in churches to express their loyalty to the 41-year old militia commander.

Other members of the security apparatus of the banned Lebanese Forces have also been rounded up. One of them, Fawzi al-Rasi, died today of a heart attack while in custody.

Judge Interrogates Ja'ja, Issues Warrant

NC2404192894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Judge Munir Hunayn, the judicial investigator looking into the case of the assassination of Engineer Dany Sham'un and members of his family, questioned Samir Ja'ja' in the presence of his lawyer As'ad Abu-Ra'd at the Justice Palace at 1000 today. The interrogation lasted until 2000 this evening. The judicial investigator decided to issue an arrest warrant for Ja'ja' and referred the warrant to the public prosecutor at the court of cassation for implementation.

Maronite Patriarch on Ja'ja'

NC2404133794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1053 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Following Sunday mass, Maronite Patriarch Sfayr received groups of citizens who went to the Maronite Patriarchate to consult with him over Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' being brought in for questioning. Earlier, they tried to break into the Patriarchate but the Army prevented them. After consultations with Patriarch Sfayr, they were divided into groups, each made up of approximately 60 persons, and invited for an audience with the patriarch. Patriarch Sfayr told them the following:

[Begin Sfayr recording] We know why you came to Bkirki today, the same reason as some others did the day before yesterday. This issue concerns all of us, in fact it concerns all people. In today's mass we have called upon all Lebanese, be they Muslims or Christians, to pray to God to give the officials, the investigators, and the judges the moral courage to reveal the truth about what has happened and is happening. We cannot but adopt this position. We must consolidate our trust in God first and in the Lebanese judiciary second until further notice. But we hope that the route through the Lebanese judiciary will be the way to reveal the truth and will help all those who want the truth reach that end. [applause]

I know what you want to tell me. We are doing all we can so that the truth can be revealed, for only the truth can save those who pursue it. Jesus Christ said: If you know the truth, it will free you. This is the position that all of you must adopt; that is, to pray to God so that the truth will come out, and then we will see what can be done. May God be with you, bless you and your children, and guide you to the right path. [applause] [end recording]

More FRC Members Arrested for Diplomat's Assassination

NC2304103894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, 23 Apr (MENA)—Investigations by Lebanese judicial and security authorities with 16 members of the Abu-Nidal-led Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council [FRC] arrested a few days ago have revealed that eight of them were involved in the assassination a few months ago of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'aytah. The number of persons arrested in connection with the crime has thus risen to 11, after charges were pressed against three others.

The Lebanese Army troops on Thursday stormed one of the Abu-Nidal group's barracks in al-Rawdah, Western al-Biqa', and seized a large amount of weapons, ammunition, vehicles, and missiles estimated at 25 truck loads. The army arrested 16 FRC members.

Labor Federation Calls For Peaceful Demonstrations 26 Apr

NC2304165294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In a statement it issued today, the General Labor Federation reaffirms its call for peaceful demonstrations on 26 April. The GLC said the government has totally alienated itself from the people, opening a wide chasm between itself and the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people.

The GLC accused the government of circumventing the demands of the working class and its trade union movement and of inventing new trade union organizations and platforms to attack the GLC. At the same time, the government is trying to appear as if it is concerned about the workers' demands.

Governors Discuss Ban on Demonstrations

NC2304170794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The governors of Mount Lebanon, Northern Lebanon, and Southern Lebanon today chaired meetings of the local security councils to discuss the measures adopted by the Central Security Council to confront any disturbance of security following the General Labor Federation's call for demonstrations on Tuesday [26 April] despite the government's ban on demonstrations.

Meanwhile, the National Defense Ministry today reminded the citizens of the decision issued by National Defense Minister Muhsin Dalull yesterday suspending arms licenses throughout Lebanon for 38 hours from Monday [25 April] evening to Wednesday [27 April] morning. The army command was ordered to implement this decision.

Labor Federation Leader Comments

JN2504073994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Interview with Ilyas Abu-Rizq, chairman of the Lebanese General Labor Federation, by radio correspondent Antoine Constantine in Beirut on 25 April—recorded]

[Text] [Constantine] Chairman of the General Labor Federation: There is a danger of a confrontation between your federation and the security forces tomorrow. Can your federation be held responsible for the results of the demonstration under the current conditions in the country?

[Abu-Rizq] The government alone is responsible for such dangers because the government's failure to implement the agreement it ratified during the cabinet meeting is the cause of this demonstration. The government signed an agreement granting workers in both the public and private sectors their basic rights. However, the government's failure to implement this agreement has forced the General Labor Federation to resort to its legitimate right to stage demonstrations. This right is supported by human rights, the Lebanese Constitution, and international laws. The government alone will be responsible for anything that might occur during the demonstration or for banning the demonstration. If the government does not want to see security disturbances it must implement the agreement that was reached five months ago. If it does, there will be no demonstration. As long as the government fails to implement the agreement the demonstration will take place.

Boycott of Washington Peace Talks Advocated

NC2304081694 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by George Bashir: "Resettlement Is Knocking on Lebanon's Door and Christopher Ignores Beirut in His Tours"]

[Text] The possibly that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will include Beirut in his tour remains a very weak one. Past experiences do not encourage the belief that Christopher will drop from his calculations the factors that made him fail to visit Beirut in his former tours, particularly as the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel—which are expected to be held later this month—are regarded as important and will lead to results that reflect the ambitions of the Madrid Conference co-sponsors, especially the United States.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz took a negative position in the past that reflected the official and popular Lebanese resentment of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's disregard for Lebanon and the Lebanese authorities during his shuttle trips in the region. Buwayz refused to meet the U.S. secretary of state anywhere other than Beirut. The U.S. official was consequently compelled to come to Lebanon and to meet with the Lebanese regime's high officials in Zahlah, al-Biqa'.

Today, as Secretary Christopher prepares for a new tour of the region, Lebanon needs another honorable stand similar to the previous one. It should refuse to go to the Washington meeting to be held this or next month if Secretary Christopher's tour does not include Beirut like the other Arab capitals. Lebanon's presence in the Washington meeting is fundamental. The Lebanese resistance operations against the Israeli presence in the south and from there against Israeli territories are upsetting and worrying to the Israelis. The peace and security of south Lebanon is as important as the peace and security of the Galilee. Why does Lebanon not take a stand this time and refuse to participate in the next round of peace negotiations in Washington if the U.S. does not treat Lebanon like it does the other Arab countries taking part in these negotiations? Lebanon has a just and reasonable case.

The exchange of views between senior Lebanese and U.S. officials, especially Secretary Christopher in telephone conversations facilitates the negotiating task and the exchange of viewpoints between the two sides. But, in the Lebanese people's view, this is not enough, because these contacts only enable the U.S. side to avoid any reproach every time the U.S. secretary of state bypasses the Lebanese capital on his tours.

Some people who are pessimistic about the negotiations in their pre-final stages are saying that the resettlement is imminent. Lebanese and Arab officials are aware of that. The Americans are aware of it too. How then will they make Lebanon drink the cup of resettlement even though it has already rejected this principle of resettlement? All the national parties here agree among themselves on the need to stand united against any plan that will force Lebanon to accept the resettlement of part of the Palestinians on its territories. Lebanon's economic, social, and demographic conditions cannot tolerate the imposition of half a million new citizens while the resources and geographical areas of the other Arab countries, especially those who expelled the Palestinians from their territories after the Gulf war, are greater than Lebanon's resources and its small geographic size.

Let us take a new, honorable stand and see what the U.S. position will be, especially as Lebanon only wants its fair share.

Israeli Shelling, Resistance Attacks in South Reported

Bomb Explodes Near IDF Patrol

TA2104122594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] A large roadside charge exploded near an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force moving in the eastern sector of the security zone at midday. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] have been sporadically exchanging fire with Hizballah in recent hours. This morning, terrorists fired several mortar shells at SLA positions and at an IDF patrol near al-Rayhan. Our correspondent notes that today's exchanges of fire occurred after two days of quiet in the security zone.

Resistance Attacks SLA Position

NC2204192694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Islamic resistance issued a statement saying that one of its groups attacked the agents' [South Lebanese Army—SLA] position in Sujud with machine guns and rockets at 1800 today. The resistance group scored direct hits, killing or wounding a number of agents.

Shelling Injures, Kills Pregnant Women

NC2304053394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The treacherous Israeli shelling of Frun has caused a major massacre. Three pregnant women—Fatimah Hamdun, Muna Hayik, and Dalal Hayik—were injured. Dalal Hayik died while undergoing surgery and was buried yesterday with her husband Hasan Ahmad Hayik, who was also martyred in the shelling. The two other injured women were evacuated to the American University of Beirut Hospital where the leg of Muna Hayik was amputated. The twins she was carrying died. Fatimah Hamdun's fetus also died.

Meanwhile, the Israeli attacks on the liberated areas continued. The hills of 'Arab Salim came under artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions on the Tallat al-Dabshah. The southern quarter of the town also came under intensive machine-gun fire.

Amal Attacks Reported

NC2304200194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights came under concentrated artillery fire from the occupation forces' positions at about 1930 today. The shelling, which was accompanied by heavy machine-gun fire, was directed mainly at Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi. At 2000 the forests of al-Litani were raked by bursts of machine-gun fire from positions held by the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

The occupation forces this afternoon shelled Qabrikha and Tulin with mortars and tank guns, causing heavy material damage. The Qabrikha-Majdal Silm road also came under sniper fire from the occupation forces' positions in Tallusi.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has announced that one of its groups attacked an enemy mechanized patrol on the al-Qantarah-al-Tayyibah road at 1745 today, using rockets and automatic weapons. An enemy M-113 armored personnel carrier was destroyed and all its occupants were killed or wounded. At the same time, another group attacked an infantry patrol on the same road, skirmishing with it for 15 minutes and killing or wounding some of its members. A third group directed concentrated 82-mm mortar fire against al-Qantarah.

Further on Amal Operations

NC2404083694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] According to reports received from the south, a group from the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal last night attacked a joint ambush manned by the Zionist enemy forces and agent Antoine Lahd's men [South Lebanese Army] near the Rshaf position with rockets and machine guns. A 15-minute clash ensued during which an unknown number of enemy personnel were killed and injured.

At the same time, another group shelled the occupation forces in the Rshaf position with artillery, scoring a direct hit and setting it on fire. Losses there are not yet known.

The occupation forces immediately opened artillery and heavy machine-gun fire on Haddathah and the surrounding area as well as Haris and 'Ayta al-Jabal town. The occupation forces used flares over the entire area late into the night.

Wrapup of Reaction to Rabin Remarks, Christopher Tour

Rabin Statement Analyzed

JN2204135594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: On the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region, Israeli officials renewed their campaign of casting doubts on the peaceful intentions of both Syria and Lebanon in an obvious attempt to foil any possible outcome of the visit, even before it starts. Yitzhaq Rabin claimed Syria has not yet made a strategic decision on peace. He accused the Lebanese Government of failing to provide security in the southern border areas. Rabin said Israel does not covet a single inch of the territories of Lebanon or Jordan, without mentioning the occupied Syrian Golan. He said he is ready to withdraw his forces from Lebanon if the Lebanese Government disarms the national resistance and provides security to the Israeli occupation forces for a trial period of six months. His third condition was merging the agent militias or South Lebanese Army, which was established by Israel, into the regular Lebanese Army and assigning the task of security in the south to them.

The Israeli rulers have over the last two and half years of Washington talks failed to drag Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan to partial, inequitable agreements as a result of the three countries' adherence to the principles of a just and comprehensive peace, the Security Council resolutions, and international law. In view of this evident failure, the Israeli rulers could do nothing but level accusations, intensify falsehoods, and reverse facts. Daily events refute Israeli officials' claims and condemn their double-standard policy. Syria presented objective and balanced proposals for peace in the Middle East at the sixth round. These proposals were discussed by the Syrian and Israeli delegations throughout the subsequent rounds. However, Israel evaded the Syrian paper because it called for full withdrawal from the Golan. Likewise, Lebanon has throughout the recent rounds sought to obtain an Israeli agreement to implement Security Council Resolution No. 425, but to no avail. Israel insisted on its well-known impossible conditions.

Israel wants the Arabs to fully recognize it, to fully open their borders with it, to establish economic ties with it, and to sign treaties with it, but without committing itself to full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In the same manner as it is talking about testing Lebanon's intentions, it is also talking about testing Syria's intentions. Testing Syrian intentions will continue for several years. As for Lebanon, Israel is looking forward to maintaining control of the south through its agents, to whom it is extending both salaries and weapons. It stipulates that those agents should be responsible for security in the south. All this will take place after disarming the national resistance and setting the stage for Israel's agents to do what they like in the various areas of the south. The situation is not different in the case of Jordan, for Israel stipulates that a peace treaty should be signed and ties be normalized before any commitment to the relevant UN resolutions is announced.

Israel wants to drag the Arab parties participating in the peace process to partial, phased agreements that consecrate the Arabs' relinquishment of Security Council resolutions, the Madrid conference formula, and the principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, as it did with the Palestinian side. While such phased agreements will secure an Arab recognition of Israel and open the markets for its products, they do not secure an end to occupation or restoration of occupied Arab territories. The region will consequently be mortgaged to Israel's policies and expansionist schemes.

Syria cannot be swayed by delusions nor can it barter the Security Council resolutions with ambiguous promises. Peace, in Syria's opinion, is possible immediately after Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied territories, and after Israel's compliance with the Security Council resolutions. Syria firmly believes inequitable agreements are doomed to failure because they do not lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. A firm and stable peace should secure justice, fairness, and equality. In other words, partial withdrawal cannot lead to peace. What is required is the dismantling of all settlements and the full departure of the occupation troops. Only then can the desired peace prevail in the Middle East.

TISHRIN, Others Comment

JN2304093694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today addresses the peace process and the recent statements Yitzhaq Rabin has made about it. The paper notes that progress in the peace process has long been contingent upon moves that Israel, rather than the Arab sides, must make, contrary to the claims in this regard by the Tel Aviv rulers. Syria and the other concerned Arab sides have declared their willingness to achieve full, just, and comprehensive peace grounded in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the principle of trading land for peace.

TISHRIN adds: During the sixth round of the Washington bilateral talks, Syria submitted constructive and balanced proposals to the Israeli negotiators. Had Israel accepted these proposals, peace would have been achieved in the region. However, the Tel Aviv rulers, who have been pursuing a policy of evasion and procrastination, have thwarted all the Washington rounds of talks, one after another, by their refusal to address the real issue; that is, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

TISHRIN goes on to say: As regards the issue of peace, what counts is action, rather than words and statements. The Rabin government has continued to earmark huge funds for the building and expansion of settlements although Rabin acknowledged the need to dismantle settlements. What the Rabin government should do in this regard is to curb settlement activities. Rabin is well aware that peace with Syria is impossible without the restoration of the Golan, and that the policy of evasion, procrastination, and circumvention of complete withdrawal will only obstruct the Washington talks and delay the achievement of durable peace in the region. It is insufficient for Rabin to make statements here or there. If his intentions are sincere, he must translate them into realities on the ground.

TISHRIN says: The upcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is providing Israel with an opportunity to rid the Washington talks of the stalemate plaguing them. It could do so by reiterating its willingness to withdraw from the occupied territories, implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to the letter, and subscribe to the bases and principles of international law.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Observers hope that the Rabin statements will be followed by action. They also hope that they are not just a part of a maneuver prompted by the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, which is designed to end the stalemate. Moreover, the opportunities for peace are getting harder to foster day after day. Likewise, it is impossible to make the slightest progress without a drastic change in the Israeli position.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH also comments on the Middle East peace process and the upcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It holds Israel responsible for the tense regional situation that prompted the U.S. secretary of state to say that he is not expecting any striking breakthroughs.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Does this mean that the U.S. stand toward Israel's obstruction of the peace talks, as demonstrated prior to the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, will be maintained?

The paper says: The U.S. sponsorship of the peace process must be promoted so it may result in the implementation of the relevant international resolutions if the desired peace is to be achieved. Peace cannot be built on usurpation and occupation. This is what President al-Asad had in mind when he said that peace cannot be built at the expense of others' territories. What could prompt the Arabs to work for peace if such peace were to result in the abandonment of their territories in favor of Israel?

The paper continues: This is the sound and objective argument constantly set forth by President al-Asad, particularly at the Geneva summit. That is why President Bill Clinton said that Syria is a key regional player that cannot be overlooked, and underscored its potential contribution to stability, equilibrium, and peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Israel has wasted two and a half years of peace talks, abusing U.S. tolerance, as well as the financial, military, and political support it is receiving. This has weakened the opportunities for just and comprehensive peace. Besides, Israel has provided all Arabs with evidence that it is targeting their lives, territories, and resources. That is why they have shown greater determination to confront these challenges, and to demonstrate greater firmness in their adherence to their rights and territories, as well as a willingness to make sacrifices to vindicate them.

Rabin Objectives Said 'Obvious'

JN2304170494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement about his willingness to dismantle the settlements in the Golan is not a new. It does not contain anything new to push the stagnant peace process forward. Rabin wants to precede Warren Christopher's tour of the region with statements that seem to offer concessions compared to previous positions. He wants to give the impression that Israel is offering new initiatives that require the other side,—the Arabs, and Syria, in particular—to offer concessions in return.

The objectives of Rabin's attempt are obvious. He seeks to direct U.S. pressure—which is supposed to be directed toward the party obstructing the peace process, Israel—toward Arabs who have offered everything in order to make the peace process a success.

Rabin's statement about Israel's willingness to dismantle the settlements does not respond to what is stipulated in the terms of reference of the peace process regarding the need for full Israeli withdrawal, dismantling settlements, and evacuating settlers from all occupied Arab territories.

According to observers, Rabin's statements are just maneuvers before Christopher's tour. Rabin previously took positions he quickly revoked in order to adopt counter positions.

After the Israeli Labor party won in the recent elections, the international community expected Yitzhaq Rabin to take the initiative to freeze settlement building in implementation of his electoral promises. However, after he assumed power, Rabin came out with a new theory concerning political and security settlements. He allocated great amounts of money in favor of settlement building, including U.S. loan guarantees. He did so despite the fact that he made a commitment to Washington not to spend a single dollar from these loan guarantees on expanding settlements.

Despite Rabin's continuous talk about his willingness to bring momentum to the talks with Syria in order to reach a settlement, he has aborted practically every chance of making minimal progress. He did this when he instructed his negotiating delegation not to get into the issue of withdrawal from the Golan. Rabin met Syria's true peace intentions with the expansion of settlements in the Golan and the building of new ones.

Peace in the Middle East requires deeds, not words. Syria, along with the Arab parties to the Washington talks, build their stands based on Israel's deeds, not its words. Arabs have heard a lot of Israel's peace claims, but they have not sensed anything tangible in the Washington talks and in the occupied Arab territories. Indeed, the reverse is true.

For its part, Syria presented a paper containing objective and balanced principles and proposals since the sixth round. This paper was the center of world attention, except, of course, in Israel, which sought to block the adoption of the Syrian paper because its sixth article discussed full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

The Washington talks, which began two and one-half years ago, have not achieved the desired results despite sincere Arab intentions and because all Israeli officials, from all trends, have not directed their attention to peace. These officials entered a competitive display of extremism and intransigence. Settlement building, of course, was part of this competition. The whole world community agrees that the policy of settlements totally contradicts peace and that peace and settlements cannot coexist and that peace and occupation cannot coexist. The UN Security Council resolutions are clear and frank. They do not permit occupation and settlements and demand their total removal.

The Arabs have not moved from the world's stand. Indeed, they have called for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the removal of settlements, and the exchange of land for peace. If Israel had responded to international law and efforts, as well as to true Arab intentions and adopted the Syrian proposals, peace would be prevailing in the region today.

Despite all the Israeli prevarication, there is an opportunity today to achieve firm peace in the region, if Israel takes the initiative to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and dismantle all settlements there.

The question posed by the observers is: Did Rabin's statement express a substantive change in the Israeli position, or is it just a maneuver to mislead the world public opinion that discovered the atrocities of the settlers and the dangers they pose to the peace process after the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre?

The next few days, which will see a new tour by the U.S. secretary of state, is guaranteed to expose the reality of the Israeli positions. The peace process is in a real predicament and the chances to achieve peace are growing narrower and are threatening to disappear.

Upcoming Tour by U.S. Envoy Noted

JN2404081094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] Press commentaries today address the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming tour of the region, which is aimed at activating the peace process and creating an appropriate climate for the resumption of the bilateral negotiations.

Under the headline "Israeli Deception," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, Israeli officials have launched an intensive media campaign aimed at misleading the world public in general, and the U.S. public in particular.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that he is willing to consider the dismantling of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, although facts on the ground belie these claims. For, the Israeli Government has continued to Judaize the occupied Arab territories, particularly occupied Jerusalem.

The paper believes that it is high time the world community, which has long been deceived by Zionism, realized that the statements and pronouncements made by Israeli officials from time to time on a peaceful settlement are totally different than their real schemes and practices on the ground. For, had Israel been seeking peace as it claims, it would not have pursued a policy of procrastination and prevarication over the past two and a half years; that is, since the inception of the peace talks. This shows that Israel is evading the requirements of peace acknowledged by the international community.

AL-BA'TH notes that the failure to make any progress in the peace talks, which were suspended in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, was not caused by the Arabs, who, as is well known, have done a great deal to render the peace process a success. Rather, the failure to make progress in the peace talks is caused by the Israeli position, which is opposed to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, which constitute the terms of reference of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying that the U.S. side must take into account the need to rehabilitate the peace process, and to reestablish it on the terms of reference agreed upon—the terms which formed the bases for the convening of the Madrid conference. The entire world community, the paper adds, welcomed the convocation of the Madrid conference, and regarded it as a unique opportunity for the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of trading land for peace.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the statements Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has made to express his willingness to dismantle settlements on the Golan, and reiterate that he would avoid complete withdrawal from the Golan. The paper says: These statements show that Rabin is sidestepping the crux of the peace process; indeed, crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For, settlements have never been the bone of contention between the Arabs and Israelis. Rather, it was the occupation of Arab territories that has always been the bone of contention between the two communities.

The paper adds: When he expressed a willingness to dismantle settlements, which were a product of the occupation, Rabin attempted to throw dust in our eyes. This is because, at the same time, he also underscored his determination to avoid complete withdrawal from the Golan, although Rabin, along with all Israeli officials, are well aware of Syria's position in this regard. Syria's peace stand is rooted in the need for complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; namely, the Golan, the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Rabin, who is engaged in a fresh maneuver with regard to the Golan, deliberately seeks to make the peace talks, if they are resumed, revolve in a vicious circle, or to render them void of any meaningful content. Moreover, Rabin's statements regarding the avoidance of complete withdrawal from the Golan are part of a new maneuver that Israel is attempting to cover up by declaring a willingness to dismantle settlements. These statements also betray a flagrant Israeli circumvention of the components of durable and viable peace.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: These Israeli proposals are only aimed at perpetuating the occupation. For, had it been serious about the efforts to achieve peace, Israel would not have hesitated to subscribe to the requirements of the peace process, chief among which are complete withdrawal from the occupied territories and the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, which provide for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territories by force and call for Israeli troop withdrawals from all occupied Arab territories to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue, saying: On the eve of his upcoming tour of the region, Christopher announced that he is not carrying any new ideas or proposals. Nonetheless, he has made public his optimism over the possible achievement of positive results to help resume and reactivate the bilateral negotiations.

The paper adds: It is hoped that this optimism is well-grounded, and that it will produce tangible developments to allow for the resumption of the negotiations, for progress in the peace talks, and for the promotion of the peace process. The attainment of all this would allow this process to achieve its final objective; that is, a just and comprehensive peace that upholds the principles of right and justice and nullifies all forms of injustice, occupation, and aggression.

The paper goes on to say: Eleven rounds of negotiations have been held since the convening of the Madrid conference. During all these rounds, the Arabs ran into Israeli intransigence and determination to conclude partial solutions and separate deals, which cannot achieve peace or bring about stability. As a matter of fact, such solutions and deals can only consecrate injustice, domination, and occupation.

The paper says: For now, we cannot see any indication of a change in the Israeli position. Likewise, we have not seen any positive attitude on the part of the Rabin government indicative of an abandonment of its old approaches and concepts, or of an acceptance of the principle of complete and full withdrawal; and this cannot help achieve peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs, headed by Syria, have not given up hope over the possible emergence of a fair and honest U.S. position that would vindicate the values of right and justice and show impartiality toward the regional conflict. All that we want is to see the United States demonstrate fairness and honesty, and play the role of a full partner with all honesty and impartiality.

Further on Upcoming Christopher Tour

JN2504071994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, TISHRIN says: The U.S. secretary of state is scheduled to begin a Middle East tour to advance the peace process. No two observers would disagree that the peace process has stumbled and that chances of peace are gradually narrowing as a result of Israel's intransigence and the fact that the U.S. role has been confined to wishes rather than using Washington's huge capabilities to force Israel to implement Security Council resolutions and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: By virtue of its great responsibilities as a major and leading party to the peace process, Syria has made every possible effort to make concrete progress. It has also contributed actively to saving this process from collapse more than once on account of Israel's reckless conduct and practices, which are far from the spirit of peace. Syria expected the round of talks held following the Geneva summit to yield substantive results to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The results of the talks, however, clashed with the same Israeli intransigence and the Israeli negotiating team's refusal to discuss the question of withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre then came to shed light on the crimes of the settlers and the risks inherent in the continued presence of settlements in the occupied territories. The massacre also placed the international community before its responsibilities toward the removal of Israeli occupation.

As Christopher was preparing to come to the region, the rulers of Israel, as usual, released a spurt of statements ostensibly stressing efforts to achieve peace, while the substance of these statements points to obstructing just peace, reshuffling cards, complicating the situation, and confusing responsibilities. Syria and the other Arab parties to the Washington talks have a simple, clear demand that is in perfect harmony with UN resolutions, the principles of international law, and the foundations of the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN adds: Since the launching of the U.S. peace initiative, Syria has made it clear that it will not relinquish an iota of its national soil nor any national or pan-Arab right; that there can be no compromise on the Golan; and that there is no alternative to the return of the Golan in full to its motherland and the return of the Syrians who were displaced to their homeland. In return, and for over two years, Syria has not heard anything from the rulers of Israel except vague hints and has only seen evasion of withdrawal.

The paper concludes: The U.S. secretary of state's tour will be fruitful inasmuch as it places the rulers of Israel before the facts of a just and comprehensive solution and employs the U.S. weight to establish a just and comprehensive solution. The peace process has been going on for far too long and it faces the threat of collapse if the Arabs do not see tangible results toward regaining all of their occupied territories and usurped rights.

AL-BA'TH devotes its editorial to the contradiction in Rabin's statements. Perhaps, the paper said, the head of the Israeli government thought, through the statements he made on the eve of Christopher's visit to the region, that he had scored a great success in the peace process or that he had fulfilled all his obligations, so he left for Moscow having on top of his agenda bringing in more Jewish emigrants to settle them in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: If we pause for a second to consider what Rabin said about the dismantling of the settlements on the occupied Golan, we see that the words he used hide concepts that do not serve the peace process in any way. Thus, we quickly come to the conclusion that Rabin was only playing on words and resorting, as usual, to maneuvers and deception.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Rabin chose to make his statements only hours before Christopher's tour of the region to sound as if he were making concessions on the peace process. He has, however, as usual, ignored the fact that what he termed concessions is something that contradicts reason and international charters because anyone who makes a concession should own whatever it is in the first place. Since Israel does not own an inch of the territory, it cannot claim to be conceding it.

The paper asserts that the question of settlement activity has been an obstacle to the peace process in the same way the absence of a clear, unequivocal commitment to withdrawal from the occupied territories is an obstacle to this process. Therefore, we can conclude that Rabin, who spoke at great length about the Golan without announcing full withdrawal from it, has once again sought to circumvent the aim of Christopher's tour by making deceptive, propagandistic statements that do not at all change the Israeli position, which still rejects the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Hence, the U.S. secretary, who said he was not optimistic about his current tour, will meet an adamant Israeli position. To break this position, emphasis must be placed on the requirements of the peace process and rectifying its course through Rabin's commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan and consequently translating what he said into action on the ground if he truly wants peace.

Afghanistan

Opposition Attack Repelled in Faryab Province

LD2304180194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] An attack by Dostam's militia was pushed back in (Garzedana) district, Faryab Province. A report from 'Abdol Karim Arshud, a courageous mojahedin commander, says that this morning at 0500 the Dostam militia launched a broad attack against mojahedin positions but the enemy were forced to retreat, leaving 24 dead.

The report adds that sixteen militiamen were captured alive by the mojahedin. One combat machine [as heard] and 16 personnel carriers belonging to the enemy were destroyed. The report adds that six militiamen's corpses are still lying on the battlefield. During the fighting, over 20 heroic mojahedin received light injuries.

Government Forces Kill Golboddin Commander, 24 Men

LD2304191394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Woreshmin, a commander attached to Golboddin, together with his 24 men were killed in the vicinity of Bala Hesar during the recent operation carried out by Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia. The BIA military correspondent reports that during a counterattack, the military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan forced the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia to retreat and imposed heavy losses on the aggressors. The report adds that Woreshmin was a general attached to Toran Amanollah. He had intended to appoint Woreshmin as chief of staff of his forces.

Rockets Fired at German, Libyan Embassies

LD2204173294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Summary from poor reception] While attacking diplomatic quarters in Kabul city today the Dostam-Karmal-Golboddin militia fired rockets at the embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany and Libya. A spokesman of the Kabul garrison command told a BIA correspondent that the militiamen, who have no principles or Islamic standards, fired rockets today against Kabul, resulting in one of our innocent compatriots being martyred and 12 others injured. A number of houses were demolished.

Heavy Casualties Reported in Kabul Fighting

BK2304124594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Kabul, April 23 (AFP)—At least 158 people were injured in an overnight battle that erupted in Kabul between rival forces fighting for and against President Borhanoddin Rabbani, officials said here Saturday [23 April].

Troops exchanged artillery and heavy weapons fire during the clash, but government troops said they had "repulsed" renegade fighters of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hektmatyar.

They also claimed that "heavy casualties" were inflicted on the troops of Hekmatyar and Uzbek fighters of militia warlord 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, the premier's main battle ally.

"The attack started at 7 p.m. (1430 GMT) and reached its peak at 10 p.m. lasting till midnight," a government soldier told AFP in the scarred Microrayan housing estate, situated near the former diplomatic enclave of Wazir Akbar Khan.

Rabbani's troops on Kabul's eastern front said troops of Hekmatyar and Dostam's Uzbek warriors attacked them at several points.

Hekmatyar's Shiite ally, the Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, also joined the battle, engaging Rabbani's troops at the city's south, the government troops said.

Reports of deaths from the clash were not immediately available but the Jamhurriat hospital here said three civilians died of their injuries while a 10-year-old boy with a bullet wound in the chest was in a critical condition.

During Friday's fighting a phosphorus shell slammed into the International Committee of the Red Cross complex but did not explode, but it ignited when Western demining experts were extracting the ordnance, relief workers said.

A few civilians still residing in the remaining Microrayan apartment estate said they spent the night in makeshift shelters or in the basements as shells whined overhead and bullets scoured homes.

Residents in one Microrayon block said only four of the 60 apartments there were occupied as most residents had fled since rival forces turned the residential district into a regular battle ground four months ago.

Troops of Dostam, Hekmatyar and Rabbani are battling since January to take control of Microrayon, a sprawling residential enclave built by the former Soviet Union for its Red Army officers after it invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Angry Microrayon residents came out of their homes to hurl curses at the United Nations, Western nations and the Afghan mojahedin for their woes as a lull in the battle set in Saturday, witnesses said.

Mine Explosion Kills Members of Golboddin's Militia

LD2404151494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Ten members of Golboddin's militia were killed in Kabul yesterday when a mine exploded. Eyewitnesses told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] correspondent that Golboddin's militia members were killed as they were trying to steal equipment and electricity lines from the Breshnakot electricity distribution center. The mine had been planted by militia members. In addition to the loss of life, the explosion also destroyed one of their vehicles.

The BIA correspondent says that members of Golboddin's militia have previously clashed over the distribution of equipment from Breshankot, Jangalak factories, and Afghan carpentry (?workshops) and have mined one another's areas. As a result, several militia members have been killed and dozens of others injured.

Harakat-e Eslami Statement Denounces Fighting

LD2304201194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In issuing a statement, the Harakat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Movement of Afghanistan] has said: This party will not remain indifferent and will take necessary action via-a-vis those individuals who for their self-interest intend to disrupt peace and security in the west of Kabul and attempt to stir up the fighting once again. Highlighting the tragic and painful events of the past two years in the west of Kabul, resulting in insecurity, destruction, and fratricide, and bringing various calamities to the people, the statement denounces every terrorist and adventurist action.

The statement adds: The Harakat-e Eslami emphasizes its peace-seeking policy and supports the atmosphere of peace and understanding, and regards talks and understanding as the only way to a solution of the existing issues in the country.

This statement has been issued after sporadic clashes started two days ago in Kabul city by irresponsible individuals. The responsible officials of the belligerent sides also denounced these clashes and have managed to stop this fire.

India

Defense Ministry Says PRC Border Situation 'Normal'

BK2504091494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi, April 25 (AFP)—India has not observed large-scale movements of Chinese troops into Tibet and the situation along the Indo-Tibetan frontier is "absolutely normal," a defense ministry spokesman said here Monday [25 April].

The Indian spokesman dismissed assertions by Tibetan sources that up to 30,000 Chinese soldiers had moved into Tibet during the past three weeks and that many of them had deployed along Tibet's border with India.

"We don't have any information like that," the defence ministry spokesman said. "The situation (along the border) is absolutely normal."

Noting that Indian and Chinese officials held a round of talks on border questions in Beijing last week, the spokesman said "this is the time when these troop numbers should go down.

"And we are making quite smooth progress in that regard," he added.

The London-based Tibet Information Network, citing sources in the Tibetan government-in-exile based in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala, reported Sunday that China had sent some 30,000 additional troops into Tibet.

"The troop movements, the largest reported from the area since martial law was lifted from the Tibetan capital in 1990, appear to be concentrated around the Tibetan border with India," the Network said.

Tibetan sources here contacted by AFP said three divisions of People's Liberation Army soldiers had entered Tibet in the last week of March and first week of April.

They said many of the troops had moved to the Tibetan region bordering the far northeastern Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, has been based in India with some 100,000 of his followers since fleeing his homeland following a failed anti-Chinese uprising in 1959.

Indian and Chinese officials meet regularly to discuss ways to keep the peace on the border, subject of a dispute that took the two countries to a brief but bitter war in 1962.

Rioting Reported in Tibetan Settlement

BK2404122194 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi, April 24 (AFP)—The Tibetan settlement of Dharamsala in northern India was calm Sunday [24 April], but tension remained after the death of an Indian in a street fight triggered a burst of rioting, reports said here.

The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile issued an appeal to the residents of the hill town to maintain "peace and calm during this period of tension," a spokesman for the Tibetan spiritual leader's office in New Delhi said Sunday.

Tibetan refugees were urged not to retaliate against "acts of violence from anyone" and the Indians in Dharamsala were asked to help restore the traditional goodwill between the two communities.

Tibetan property, including some exile government offices, a hospital and library, were damaged and about a dozen people injured when angry Indian residents armed with bricks and sticks went on the rampage Friday.

The attacks were sparked by the death of a 20-year-old Indian youth in a knife fight Thursday night with a Tibetan refugee, who also was injured and hospitalised.

Police reinforcements have reached Dharamsala, where the authorities imposed a ban on public protests in response to a Tibetan request for additional security, the spokesman for the Dalai Lama's office said.

"Our information is that it is now calm and quiet, but there is some tension still," the spokesman said, adding that Indian leaders in the region had expressed their regret over the rioting.

He said the incident which sparked the riots was an altercation between two individuals and "no one should take steps which will result in communal tension."

Dharamsala has been home to the Dalai Lama and the seat of his government-in-exile since he fled Tibet in 1959 following an abortive anti-Chinese uprising. India is home to about 100,000 Tibetan exiles.

The Tibetan spiritual leader is now on a visit to the United States and expected to return May 1.

His government-in-exile used Sunday's statement to express Tibetan gratitude to India for "coming to our help at this critical period in our history."

"Tibet and India have had close spiritual and cultural ties for centuries," the statement said. "The Dalai Lama has always been reminding our people that the relationship between India and Tibet is that of a teacher and a disciple."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2104091694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi, 21 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in New Delhi from Singapore today. He was welcomed at Indira Gandhi International Airport by senior Indian Foreign Ministry officials, the Iraqi ambassador in New Delhi, several Iraqi Embassy staff, and a number of Arab ambassadors. The INA correspondent in New Delhi said that al-Sahhaf is scheduled to meet with Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh this evening.

The Iraqi foreign minister met with Syed Hamid Albar, Malaysian justice minister and acting foreign minister, in Kuala Lumpur on 15 April. Al-Sahhaf handed him a technical report containing details of Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations according to Part C of Security Council Resolution 687.

Holds Talks With Singh

BK2204051494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] India has reiterated that lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq should be phased in accordance with Baghdad's compliance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. This was conveyed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, when the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Muhammad Sa'id Kazim al-Sahhaf, called on him in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. al-Sahhaf is on a two-day official visit to India. He is visiting as a special envoy of the president, Saddam Husayn, to three Asian countries including India.

Minister Criticizes Pakistan Travel Restrictions

BK2404090794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has said that Pakistan's recent travel restrictions from and to India is another setback to bilateral relations. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar, he said Islamabad's intention seems to be to stop interaction between the people of the two countries. Mr. Bhatia reiterated India's stand on solving bilateral problems through dialogue.

Fighting, Situation in Kashmir Reported

Troops Reportedly Killed

BK2204145494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 12 Indian troops were killed when mojahedin launched a retaliatory attack on military camp near (Dandalgam). Several soldiers were also injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, Indian troops martyred another six persons during siege and search operations at various places in the valley. Two persons were killed in an indiscriminate firing by the troops in Sopor District, while two mojahedin fell in a clash at (Gulzar Tangmarg). A brutal crackdown was carried out in the suburban areas of Srinagar. People were forced to come out of their houses for searches and were made to stand in the open for hours. Over 50 people, mostly youths, were rounded up during the operation. Three people were seriously injured when a bomb exploded in Jammu region.

Five 'Militants' Killed

BK2404083394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, five militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Badgam yesterday. The encounter took place after security forces cordoned off the area on specific information that militants were hiding there.

Six activists of Hizbul Mojahedin were arrested in Baramula. Elsewhere in the valley, 20 militants were arrested during the past 24 hours.

Islamabad Reports on Events

BK2304153194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, mojahedin during their stepped up retaliatory attacks on Indian troops killed 14 soldiers. Mojahedin attacked military targets in Anantnag-Islamabad and its adjacent areas. Six soldiers were killed in a fierce clash with mojahedin near Anantnag-Islamabad. Mojahedin also killed two Indian soldiers when they tried to besiege the Jamia Masjid [mosque] of Doro. Three soldiers died in an attack by mojahedin on a military target. A number of troops were killed and wounded when mojahedin attacked a military camp in Pahalgam. Mojahedin also carried out rocket attack on a battalion headquarters of the Gurkha Regiment at Ghamir camp in Rajouri sector. Four soldiers were killed and six injured. The camp was badly damaged in the attack. Indian soldiers gunned down two civilians during a crackdown and house-to-house search operation in Dayalgaon in Anantnag-Islamabad. Indian soldiers martyred and wounded a number of civilians in indiscriminate firing during siege and search operation at Batmalu in Srinagar.

Iran

Friday Prayer Leader Target of Assassination Attempt

LD2204144894 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), April 22, IRNA—Friday prayer leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Abaei was the target of an assassination attempt by a terrorist here today. Abaei, who substitutes as Friday prayer leader in this holy city was fired at twice just after delivering the sermon and was immediately rushed to the hospital where his health condition was reported as satisfactory, said a local official to IRNA.

The terrorist after his failed attempt tried to kill himself when faced with angry reaction from the worshippers chanting 'Death to Munafiq (hypocrite)'.

Law enforcement officers whisked away the culprit who had badly injured himself.

Khorasani in 'Satisfactory' Condition

LD2204170094 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 22 apr 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), April 22, IRNA—Doctors at the Qaem hospital here have described the condition of Friday prayer leader Mohammad Abaei Khorasani, as "satisfactory". Hojjat ol-eslam Abaei who substituted as the Friday prayer leader today, was shot at by a lone gunman just as he had finished the sermon.

"Luckily the bullets hit the back of his shoulder and did not cause him any serious injury," said Dr. Fattahi the Mashhad representative to the National Parliament (Majlis) who happens to be a specialist surgeon by profession.

The terrorist tried to shoot himself and was injured badly when faced with the fury of the worshippers. He was immediately whisked away by law officials.

MKO Linked to Assassination Attempt

LD2404201294 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 24, (IRNA)—National security director general at the Information Ministry, Musavi-Nejad said in an interview here today that the terrorist who shot and wounded the Mashhad Friday prayer leader had links with the "Munafiqeen (Hypcrites) Khalq Outfit" (MKO).

He identified the attacker as Ali Houri nick-named "Popi" from the Haft Tappeh region of Khuzestan in southwest Iran.

Houri after his failed assassination bid against Hojat ol-eslam Mohammad Abaei Khorasani just after the latter had finished his Friday prayer sermons, tried to shoot himself to escape the fury of the worshippers.

Musavi-Nejad said the attacker who underwent surgery at Imam Redha (AS) hospital had shot himself with the idea of committing suicide.

Hoj. Abaei Khorasani who was struck by two bullets on the back of his shoulder, is recovering at Qaem hospital where he was operated upon after the attack. A third bullet fired by the attacker missed the prayer leader and injured a theology student.

The Information Ministry official asked to comment on the motives of the attack, said the MKO because of its nature will not abandon its terrorism. Moreover, he said, it has reached a deadlock in Iraq.

Musavi-Nejad recalled that at the outbreak of the Iraqi war (1980-88), the MKO shouted slogans against Saddam Husayn but soon, however, it became attached to Saddam Husayn.

He said that during the past two years the MKO had conducted blasts along the Iran-Iraq border in the name of the masses. He said the MKO selected young persons in the country with promises and encouraged them to carry out terrorist operations.

Musavi said those that cooperate with MKO will be considered as being against the security of the country and will be prosecuted.

Regarding the reason why the MKO is looking for people inside the country for terrorist operations he said there were many reasons.

"One of those reasons is, the MKO wants to propagate that it has cells inside the country, whereas it is not so. The second reason is, the people deceived by the MKO are without previous records and if they did anything the MKO can deny their terrorist acts," he said.

The third reason is that the group has been under pressure since its flight from the country and considers this a way for its presence.

The fourth reason, added Musavi-Nejad, such people are considered to be forces at no cost, and the MKO without incurring any expenditure exploits them.

He said the grouplet is not even willing to pay for the costs of exit from Iran of its people and they steal the jewelery of their mothers or borrow from friends to go abroad.

These measures of the MKO, he said, are exactly the expectation of Iraq which has always planned subversive operations in the Islamic Republic.

About the writer of the past regime, Saeedi Sirjani, and his fate, the Information Ministry official said, Sirjani was arrested along with an accomplice named Mohammad Sadeq Saeed, with the nickname Niaz Kermani, for involvement in a drug ring and for acts against public decency, and both of them have confessed of their acts.

The two principal accused persons, he said, have been interrogated by the ministers of information for cooperation with Savak and for involvement in it.

He said both Saeedi and Niaz Kermani had connections with Savak, the Shah's notorious secret service, after the triumph of the Islamic revolution

Musavi-Nejad said the two have already confessed to such charges as drug trafficking, making and possessing alcoholic beverages, sodomy, conncections with a group of savak-related army officers that were involved with the Nowzheh State coup, and receipt of [word indistinct] amount of foreign exchanges from anti-revolutionary elements in the United States and Europe.

He said investigations are under way in that connection.

Officials Comment on Bosnia, Assistance for Muslims

Envoy Criticizes UN

LD2204142394 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), April 22, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative of Iran to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi, last night said if the Security Council had reacted "promptly and vigorously" when its first resolution had been violated by the Serbs, the Bosnian people would have been spared the present catastrophe.

Condemning the world body's attitude towards the savage attacks on Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Serbs, Kharrazi said at the open session of the Security Council that the U.N. failure to shoulder its responsibility in the face of continued Serbian aggression could not be ignored. "The fact the Council has tied the hands of the victims so that they cannot exercise their inherent rights of self-defense cannot be be overlooked," he said.

The Iranian added that in fact the "Serbs have been given the green light to continue to slaughter the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina." Referring to the worsening situation particularlly in the besieged city of Gorazde, he said that under such circumstances, the Council has only "one option that is lift and strike," as all other mechanisms designed to defend civilians have failed.

"Those who oppose lifting the arms embargo against B-H, are certainly responsible, at least partially, for all innocent lives perished in the Serbian atrocities," Kharrazi made it clear.

He said "there is no justification whatsoever, on legal or moral grounds, for the continuation of the unjust arms embargo against Bosnia."

The inaction and indecisiveness of the UN in countering aggression coupled with the persistence of certain Council members in denying the inherent right of self-defense to the Bosnians, has made the Islamic world indignant, and brought under serious question the world body's credibility, he said.

"Public opinion in the Muslim, and in fact in the world at large, has seriously taken the credibility of the U.N. system into question and is urging the governments to take practical steps in defending their brethren in Bosnia-Herzegovina," added Kharrazi. "The Security Council is obliged to proclaim that the arms embargo is inapplicable to the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina," he stated.

Criticizing the Council's Thursday draft resolution, which had called for an immediate cease-fire agreement in B-H and Gorazde as well as withdrawal of Serbian forces and their weapons from the city, Kharrazi said the document "lacks a clear threat" to the Serbs in the event of probable violation of the undertakings under the present draft.

The resolution has fallen short of addressing the critical situation of other declared safe areas as well as other parts of B-H, added the Iranian representative noting that paragraph four of the resolution was formulated in a such a way that it "equates the victim and the aggressor." He said such practice of the Council would only encourage the aggressors to continue their genocide throughout B-H. Kharrazi referred to the draft's call for the intensification of efforts to achieve peaceful settlement by the U.N., European Union, the United States and the Russian Federation and said that nothing would diminish the responsibility of the U.N. and particularly the Security Council in reversing the aggression committed by the Serbs.

Minister on Military Assistance

LD2204151494 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Semnan, April 22, IRNA—Defence Minister Mohammad Foruzandeh said here last night that the Armed Forces of Iran are ready to offer support for the Muslim Bosnians.

He referred to the recent speech of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Repubic of Iran and said the Armed Forces are ready to offer every type of assistance to Bosnian Muslims and defend them against the Serbs.

He said the Islamic Republic now has a grave responsibility for building a new civilization which needs sacrifice and material resources, human resources, and thought.

The meeting was attended by commanders of the armed forces in Semnan (300 kms east of Tehran).

Security Council Discusses Bosnia

LD2304200494 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In today's meeting of the Supreme National Security Council, which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and was attended by all members and high ranking military commanders, the latest developments relating to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the tragedy of Gorazde were discussed.

The attacks and crimes of the Serbian forces were condemned and it was announced that the UN Security Council and countries that had given the aggressors a free hand by their indifference shared the blame for this immense human tragedy.

It was stressed in the meeting that, in view of the lack of seriousness shown by the United Nations and NATO regarding the defense of regions which had been declared as safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina, our country's Foreign Ministry should act with even greater resolve towards strengthening the effective cooperation between Islamic countries with a view to lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

It was also decided that the government would set about gathering extensive relief aid to help the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In view of the guidance issued by the eminent leader [Khamene'i], the constructive role that could be played by peacekeeping forces from Islamic countries in Bosnia-Herzegovina was also underlined.

Speaker Urges Lifting of Arms Embargo

LD2404090494 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Sunday [24 April] called on Islamic countries to lift arms embargo against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking at today's Majles open session, the speaker referred to the support of the international bodies, including the U.N. and hegemonist powers, for the Serbian crimes and said, "Islamic countries, given the unreliability of U.N. Security Council resolutions, should lift the arms embargo against Bosnia to enable the Muslims in that country to defend themselves."

He expressed hope that Islamic countries would not limit themselves to uttering words but would also enter the scene of action.

The speaker referred to his recent talks with Malaysian and Pakistani officials and said authorities in the two countries held identical views in connection with the double standard of the internatiional community on Bosnia and its inaction in standing against the Serbs aggressions.

He also condemned the failed attempt against the life of Hojjat ol-Eslam Abaie, susbstitute Friday prayer leader of Mashhad, by terrorist groups and called on the Information Ministry to take a serious stance towards the issue.

"Those lackey munafiq (hypocrite) elements should know that by resorting to such assassination attempts and explosions they could not disappoint the ulema and the people to abandon their struggle and could not create a state of terror in the society," remarked the speaker.

Students, Others Hold Demonstrations on Bosnia

LD2204174394 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Urumiyeh (West Azerbaijan Prov.) April 22, IRNA—Thousands of university and high school students here Friday in a massive demonstration condemned the silence of the United Nations with respect to the killing of Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Carrying placards that read slogans against the Serbs and the West the students shouted readiness to offer help to the Muslim people of Gorazde. Many people joined the demonstrating students on their way.

In part of their resolution the document condemned the violation against Muslims and the silence of the United Nations. The resolution also voiced the preparedness of students to serve as volunteers upon the order of the leadership.

Similar rallies were held in other Iranian towns and cities after the Friday prayer.

In Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan province, demonstrators denounced the indifference and inaction of the United Nations against the Serb crimes.

The rally composed of people from all walks of life, demanded immediate measures to end the worsening plight of the beseiged people of Goradze.

They carried placards reading 'Death to the U.S.', and 'Death to the racist Serb savages'.

A massive rally was staged in front of the United Nations mission in Tehran today after the Friday prayer against the situation in Bosnia.

On Thursday, students and teachers of Islamic seminaries held a protest demonstration against the irresponsible attitude of the U.N. towards the inhuman crimes of the Serbs.

Rally Held in Tehran

LD2204150694 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Thousands of Tehranis marched to the United Nations office here today after the Friday prayer to protest against the world body's inaction to end the worsening plight of besieged Bosnian Muslims in Gorazde.

At the end of the rally the marchers released a resolution condemning the silence of the West and international forums, the U.N. in particular.

They announced support for the defenceless Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said they would use all possible means to end the Serbian crimes against humanity.

The resolution called on Islamic states to close ranks against the genocide of Europe's native Muslim population.

It lauded Iran's logical stance on the B-H issue and urged the Foreign Ministry to provide necessary grounds for sending of Iranian forces to Bosnia.

Placards carried by the demonstrators read: "Genocide in Bosnia- Herzegovina, U.S. Gift to the New Generations".

A large group of women were also seen in the rally.

Earlier on Thursday, university students had demonstrated in front of the U.N. mission to protest the indifference to the massacre of Bosnian Muslims.

Students Stage 'Violent' Protest

LD2304200894 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—A rally staged by Tehran university students outside the U.N. office here in protest at its performance in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Saturday afternoon turned violent when the marchers began to throw stones and eggs at the office.

Some windows of the U.N. office have been broken and riot police are now trying to prevent the demonstrators from entering the building.

In the course of their rally on Tehran streets, thousands of students chanted slogans, condemning the silence of the United Nations and other international bodies on the massacre of Bosnian Muslims.

The marchers strongly condemned the double standard policy of the United Nations and certain Western countries towards international issues, calling for a halt to the crimes being committed by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The angry demonstrators also burned the U.S. flag in front of the U.N. office.

The marchers, mostly wearing shroud, announced their readiness for a rapid dispatch to Bosnia and helping the brave defenders of Gorazde.

In a press release the marchers said the only way to end the clashes is practical coordination of the Islamic countries for the quick dispatch of forces to Bosnia.

"What is going on in Bosnia is also in line with the tragic policies of the global imperialism and international Zionism towards Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, Tajikistan and other Islamic countries," the marchers said.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Ambassador to Tehran Omar Bahman appreciated the people for their massive presence in the rally, and said resistance of the Bosnian Muslims is indebted to the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The enemy is strong, but we will continue to resist," he said, adding that the Bosnian people were victims of a horrible crime which was unprecedented in the history.

In another development, the Islamic Association of the Iranian Students in Moscow condemned the massacre of the oppressed people of Gorazde by the racist Serbs, and castigated the silence of the international circles and the United Nations towards the issue.

"If the world continues its silence, and the Muslims world does not rise up, the Serbs will totally occupy Bosnia-Herzegovina and kill all Muslims in that country with the help of the arms of the former Yugoslavia," said the association in a statement.

Emami-Kashani Criticizes UN in Sermon

LD2204132494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani in Tehran on 22 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]. We are coming through days, which are the turning points of history. Once upon a time there was an international community in the world. Then World War I started. After World War II the major powers, which had faced the scourge of war, set up the United Nations and the Security Council. They told the world that the objective was to respect borders and to stop one [country] violating another. How far have the United Nations and the Security Council come today? What has happened? What are human societies witnessing today?

The Security Council, which used to say it wanted to maintain world security, and the United Nations, which used to say it wished to safeguard the rights of all mankind, have become supporters of arrogant powers and a witness and observer in the arena, where the innocent and defenseless people are rolled into dust and blood. This is their fate today. It is lying that it cannot do much. This is a lie and all members of mankind should understand that it is lying. It is even withdrawing its forces from Bosnia and such zones as Gorazde. It says it cannot do anything. It is pleading that it is incapable. Whereas when it faced the Iraq-Kuwait problem, it promptly condemned [Iraq] and called on everyone to go to war. It asked for troops and money. On the other hand we saw when a gang of criminal Serbs attacked this city, it took the Security Council three months to condemn the attack. The United Nations issued a feeble resolution on the issue. And now whatever they say is nothing but slogans. The only side telling the truth under this blue sky is Iran—the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This fact is being proven across the world. We—that is the Iranian nation—realized after the revolution that many things are false, including the United Nations and the Security Council. But there were many who believed that those are true and correct. But what occurred in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Palestine and—these days—in the oppressed town of Gorazde, was the coup de grace delivered to the hope of all the hopeful people. It delivered the coup de grace to all those who hoped—though we were not among them. They realized that the United Nations is a lie.

What sort of accounting is that? To gather Muslims in a mosque and then set fire to the mosque! To rip open the stomach of pregnant women just because they are carrying a Muslim child! To make a bet on whether the fetus is a girl or a boy and then laugh their heads off over the bet! What atrocities they perpetrate!

The Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin, tells the Serbs to be careful so that world sentiments are not moved against them! Now, what do they do themselves? What assistance they give! What green light does the East and West give them!

I say in all truth and earnestness, with what is going on now—the crimes that are being committed—the nations watch. We do not watch. The beloved leader of the revolution, may God grant him victory, with his precise political stances—beside his enthusiasm for science and religious jurisprudence, his piety and truly befitting aspects—has announced that the armed forces must be prepared. The Islamic Republic of Iran has not denied [the Bosnian Muslims] anything and will not deny them anything. But those who perpetrate crimes and those who watch those crimes will all be punished. One can see that coming. [passage omitted]

We are living under conditions where a great many crimes are being committed against humanity. And that is the way the United Nations acts!

Muslims must think about forming an organization, a united nations, a united nations that protects weak countries. Not just Muslims—all countries should free themselves of those who do as they please using their power of veto with America in their forefront. They commit so many crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Gorazde, Palestine on the other hand, and also in other parts. [passage omitted]

Clinton's Statement on Bosnia Viewed

LD2204202594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. President, in his last statements on the situation in Bosnia has proposed the plan on safe regions in Bosnia to cover the surrounding areas, too.

While the international community witnessed how Gorazde was occupied by the aggressive Serbs as a safe city in Bosnia against the international organization's indifference, the U.S. President's statements are more a reaction to public opinion in the United States and the world.

Gorazde was occupied by the invading Serb Army when the international community had called for a decisive measure to put an end to Serbian attacks against Gorazde, with its expression of disgust toward crimes committed by the Serbs.

The West not only did not show any reaction to this Serb's invasion of Gorazde but with its silence against these crimes expressed its pleasure, too.

In the thick of the collapse of Gorazde and the atrocities by the Serbs in this Muslim inhabited city, political observers predicted that the West's silence would place a new dilemma in front of the western statesmen.

The same observers expressly said that the Serb's victory in dominating Gorazde will put this question to the western statesmen as to how they want to prevent Serbs later invasions in the future.

In response to this question the U.S. President has proposed to extend NATO air force operation region to the vicinity of safe regions in Bosnia in a way to cover Serb supply and ammunition depots.

The U.S. secretary of defense in explaining the failure or success of the plan on the extension of safe regions to the vicinity of these region has said: Even if the U.S. presence plan is confirmed by the NATO military experts it cannot guarantee the security of the safe regions.

The U.S. President proposed the said plan while political observers in the United States warned the U.S. statesmen by saying the Serbs victory in occupying Gorazde has explicitly endangered U.S. strategic interests and has brought up this possibility that the Serbs extend their invasion as far as Croatia and Macedonia.

The situation in the tragic collapse of the Muslim-inhabited city of Gorazde along with the massacre of human beings in this city, has made the world people realize this fact that the West shows serious reaction to aggressors only when its strategic interests are exposed to threats.

In other words, Gorazde collapsed because the collapse of this Muslim-inhabited city was not against the West's strategic interest.

Expansion of Serb invasions against Croatia, in view of independence-seeking inclinations among the Serbs in [word indistinct] region, will give this chance to the Serb invaders to threaten the creation of a confederation of Croatia Republic and Muslim-Croat Federation which has been agreed upon.

In the meantime, the expansion of Serb aggression against Macedonia will [word indistinct] the creation of the greater Serbia.

Expansion of the Serb invasion has placed the UN before the reality that if it had showed serious and decisive reaction against violation of the first UN Security Council resolution by the Serbs, the Bosnian nation would not be the subject of such atrocities today, and the credibility of this world organizations would never be harmed as such.

NATO's 'Belated Ultimatum' on Gorazde Viewed

NC2404084694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The NATO ultimatum to the aggressor Serbs has expired. Yet, even though they continue their attacks on the city of Gorazde and its oppressed residents, the UN emissary in Bosnia-Herzegovina has announced that Serbs have promised to withdraw a few kilometers away from Gorazde and there is no need for a NATO attack on Serb positions.

Political analysts believe that the United Nations and Western countries are turning a blind eye to the Serbian atrocities and the announcement of a belated ultimatum by NATO—for political and propaganda purposes—highlights the fact that no justice can be expected from the current international system. It is because of the intrinsically Western bias of this system that it has an anti- Islamic stance. The implementation of the UN resolutions on Iraq to chastise that country for its occupation of Kuwait while turning a blind eye to Serbian atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Zionists in Palestine proves that with such policies the West and the United Nations—with their leniency toward noncompliance with UN resolutions in these regions—not only do not prevent the continued humanitarian catastrophes but actually facilitate their continuation and proliferation.

It is for this reason that the Islamic world should seek an alternate measure from the United Nations and the West to halt this savage and brutal onslaught. Even though activity outside the current international system is very difficult, and the subservience of some rulers of Islamic countries to the powers of world arrogance detracts from cooperation among Islamic countries, the continuation of the present state of affairs is not possible, especially when the Islamic world is witnessing a human catastrophe daily.

Political analysts believe that the Muslim people realize the above facts now more than ever before because of the sorrowful events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that most Islamic countries also understand this reality. In such a climate, planning and coordination on the popular and official levels among Islamic governments is essential.

The upcoming hajj season is one of the most important things that can be used to attain such lofty objectives and to impart its true meaning to the hajj.

'Superficial' NATO Actions in Bosnia Criticized

NC2504081894 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 13 Apr 94 p 12

[Commentary by M. Mollazadeh: "NATO's Cosmetic Actions"]

[Excerpts] The limited strikes by NATO warplanes on some less important Serb positions around the city of Gorazde, strikes in which it is said that only one Serb tank was destroyed, raise the question: Why has NATO resorted to this cosmetic action? If we were to glance at the news reports concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially Gorazde, the answer would not be very difficult to find. Before U.S. airplanes overflew their positions, the Serbs had carried out chemical bombing of Gorazde and the city was on the verge of collapse. [passage omitted]

The Muslim people of Gorazde gained nothing from these attacks and the danger of a massacre was not mitigated. Clearly, the Western mass media carried out extensive propaganda on this superficial action, as if to say that it actually halted the Serb advance.

The Bosnian president welcomed NATO's action but openly declared that such limited strikes were carried out too late and could not change the course of events. This is worth mulling over. A sovereign country such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, a UN member, cannot expect support from the greater powers; it is not in such a position. [passage omitted]

Obviously things will continue as they are, as the Serbs will not only continue their aggression, but will also try every means possible to occupy all the Bosnian areas to which they profess historical claims. They will not hesitate to perpetrate greater atrocities, such as using banned chemical weapons. Unfortunately, the world has closed its eyes to such crimes and no sounds of deterrent seem to be emanating from any country.

In such circumstances, the Serbs continue their campaign of bloody ethnic cleansing against the Bosnian Muslims. Undoubtedly, limited, ineffective action will not solve the problems of the Muslim defenders of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Bosnian war.

With their silence, the international organizations, European countries, the United States, and Russia have extended their tacit consent for the Serbs' atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is tantamount to complicity in these crimes. They cannot shrug off their responsibility with such superficial actions.

Limited operations against the Serbs cannot fool the Bosnian Muslims into untimely optimistic conjecture. But since conditions are so difficult for them, they cannot ignore even a glimmer of hope.

There is also the theory that NATO carried out these strikes to divert attention from the Serbs' use of chemical weapons against the Bosnian Muslims. This is what happened and the international mass media directed all its attention to reporting on NATO's aerial operations so that people everywhere would have less time to ponder the criminal actions of the Serbs and their chemical bombing of Gorazde.

It is not unlikely that the international community's inertia and the indifference by Europe and the United States over using their troops to halt the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina may result in dismembering this country. This will enable the Serbs to achieve their goals. If this occurs, there is no knowing where the Serbs will stop, because they may covet other remaining Muslim territory. The war may spread further in the region and may even continue for an unforeseen period.

In the circumstances, will the world move toward unbridled power for some countries and fail to rein in the lust for power of fascist and chauvinist groups? If events in Bosnia-Herzegovina are to be considered the criterion for judgment, you can state with great regret that the world is facing bleak prospects.

Russia's Bosnia Role, Links With Muslim World Viewed

LD2404095994 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—A morning daily here Sunday [24 April] referred to the role Russia played in the Bosnian tragedy and said if Russia allowed itself to be used as an excuse for Western duplicity in Bosnia, it would damage its "already fragile relation with Muslim countries."

"The United States introduced the Russian trump card exactly at the juncture when the world public opinion demanded UN-NATO action to end Serbian aggression against Bosnia," wrote "TEHRAN TIMES" in its editorial.

The United States and its allies, said the article, insist that there can be no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina unless the Russians are allowed to participate in NATO's plants to end the Serbs atrocities.

The West had to find a way of wiggling out this mess without accepting any blame and this was where the Russian factor came into play, noted the paper.

The daily wrote that the U.S. intended to show that Russia was an important military power deserving of being included in resolving the global conflicts.

However, added the paper, when the U.S.-led UN forces attacked the Iraqi Army, the opposition of the all powerful Soviet Union was totally ignored by the U.S. and its allies.

Russia, for its domestic reasons, needed to pretend that it was still the same "menacing bear" it used to be before its disintegration, said the daily.

It added that the Russian officials should realize that by promoting the Serbian cause they are playing into the hands of the Western "political puppeteers" who plan to sit this war out and blame their inaction on Russia's opposition to the use of force against the Serbs.

The paper noted in conclusion that Russia should realize that if it continued playing the role of an excuse for the

West, it would face "irreparable" damages in its relations with Muslim countries and their more than one billion collective population.

Russia Helps Build Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

NC2304181894 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Bushehr—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent: We have begun to build the Bushehr Power Plant.

An informed source at the Bushehr Power Plant said this to our correspondent, adding that following initial agreements with the Russians a few months ago, their experts began working on the first unit of the Bushehr Power Plant early this [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1994]. This unit is to be completed in four years, and will have a 1,000-megawatt output.

He added: So far 30,000 tonnes of the power plant's main parts have been brought into the country from Germany and are being kept in suitable storage areas. About 7,000 tonnes of the main parts of the power plant, which have been paid for and legally belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been packed and sent to ports, and are ready for shipment to Iran, but regrettably they are being held up because the German Government will not issue an export permit on the basis of empty pretexts.

He added that unfortunately there is no information on what state these parts are in.

The informed source said that fortunately 90 percent of the damage inflicted during the imposed war has been repaired by the able hands of Iranian experts and the remaining 10 percent is currently being repaired.

It should be noted that the agreement for the construction of the Bushehr Power Plant was signed on 10 Tir 1355 [1 July 1976] between the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] and Kraftwerk Union of Germany for 7.8 billion DM [German marks]. On the basis of this agreement, the German company was to build a nuclear power plant approximately 18 km southwest of Bushehr, consisting of two pressurized light water units, each with an output of 3765 thermal megawatts and 1296 megawatts. Of the aforementioned amount, Iran has paid 5.8 billion DM. In addition, separate agreements for supplying the necessary fuel and 200,000 cubic meters of pure water needed by the power plant were signed. Thus, a total of 137,394,000 DM and $43 million has been paid by the IAEO to Germany.

According to the same report, so far progress has been made on about 85 percent of the construction works, and about 65 percent of the mechanical and electrical works in the power plant.

Velayati Leaves for Bucharest, Attends World Forum

LD2204140994 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNa—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Friday [22 April] left for Bucharest, Romania. In Bucharest, he will discuss important political developments of the Balkans especially the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as cooperation with Central Asian republics.

Meets Romanian President

LD2304183794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who has gone to Romania in order to attend the general session of the World Forum Foundation, has met that country's president and, as well as conveying the warm greetings of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has expressed the anxiety felt by Islamic countries about the situation of Bosnian Muslims.

In the meeting, Romanian President Ion Iliescu spoke of the bilateral relations between Iran and Romania and called for the expansion of political and economic ties between the two countries.

Also today, on the third day of the current session of the World Forum Foundation, Mr. Velayati, who was in the chair, spoke about our country's economic capabilities and about those of Central Asian countries. In the meeting, which was attended by the representatives of most countries, discussions were held about the pipeline for the transfer of gas and oil from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan to Europe via Iran.

Speaks on Central Asian Development

LD2304193894 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Bucharest, April 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velyati said here Saturday [23 April] that European countries are expected to actively participate in the on-going efforts towards the development of the Central Asian region.

Speaking at the third general session of the Crans-Montana Forum, Velayati said such participation will as well serve European interests, since it brings the most needed natural resources such as natural gas to the doorsteps of the European countries.

"ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) and Central Asian countries would welcome such a multilateral cooperation," he added.

Elsewhere, he said completion of trans Asian communication network and its connection through iran and Turkey to the Trans European Motorway (TEM) will provide a trans Euro-Asian network.

"In the meantime, the project of Iran-Turkmenistan gas pipeline is designed to transfer Turkmenistan's gas to Europe through Iran," Velayati said.

Meets With Bosnia's Siladzic

LD2304181594 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Bucharest, April 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today reiterated the full support of the Iranian people and government for the oppressed people of Bosnia against the aggressor Serbs.

He made the remark in a meeting with his Bosnian counterpart Haris Siladzic on the sidelines of the Crans-Montana forum here, where the two sides also reviewed the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina particularly the Gorazde crisis.

Informing Velayati on the details of the strong resistance of the people in Gorazde against the wide-scale Serbian invasion, Siladzic said his country was pessimistic towards the "ambiguous function" of the international circles.

He termed the aid rendered by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Bosnia people as "Islamic and brotherly" and appreciated the Iranian people and government for their sympathy with the Bosnian Muslims.

Returns, Comments on Forum

NC2404074394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Velayati, our foreign minister, who went to Romania to participate in the World Forum Foundation, returned to Tehran at midnight. He said that Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serbs' atrocities against the Muslims of that country, especially in Gorazde, were the main topics of his discussions with the Croatian parliamentary speaker and the foreign ministers of Albania, Romania, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent on the World Forum Foundation, Dr. Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] The forum, which was established five years ago, is a nongovernmental international center that usually meets once a year in the month of Tir [22 June-22 July] at Crans-Montana in Switzerland. In some countries, an emergency session is held on request to discuss specific issues between the annual sessions. Therefore, this is a new form of international gathering that is, as I mentioned, a nongovernmental one and is progressing alongside the United Nations and other affiliated organizations.

The first session of this kind was held in Davos, Switzerland and the second one was convened in Crans-Montana [as heard]. In other parts of the world, similar organizations are being established. [end recording]

Hamas-Fatah Agreement Welcomed

NC2304090094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Fatah Hawks—the military wing of the Fatah movement—signed an agreement in the occupied areas of Palestine yesterday, Friday, to stop all kinds of hostile operations against each other.

This agreement, which was welcomed by popular and political Palestinian circles, ends the conflict between these two groups which had been going on for the past few months, and opens a new chapter of fraternal ties between them. Prior to the signing of the agreement halting hostilities between Hamas and the Fatah Hawks, the Zionist regime officials expressed concern about this and threatened the PLO, which is engaged in talks with that regime. They described the agreement as a sort of division of labor between Hamas and Fatah.

The Zionist regime's environment minister, who is playing an active role in the PLO-Tel Aviv talks, stated: If the PLO believes that it is carrying out a division of labor by this action and is giving Hamas permission to carry out anti-Israeli operations while engaging in talks itself, it is mistaken. He added: If the PLO signs an agreement with Hamas, it cannot sign any agreement with Israel.

In order to sow further discord in the Fatah and PLO ranks—headed by combatants of the Islamic Movement and 'Arafat, respectively—the Zionist regime threatened the PLO that in the event of continued anti-Zionist operations by Hamas, talks will be suspended. Despite the Zionist regime's efforts to the contrary, the agreement between the Hamas and Fatah Movements opened a new chapter of bilateral relations. This agreement was signed when Hamas was able to organize four important anti-Zionist operations—in a short period of time—in revenge for the blood of the martyred fasting worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi shrine in al-Khalil [Hebron]. As a result of these operations, 14 Zionists were killed and 77 were wounded.

Following the shattering debacle of the al-Khalil carnage, Hamas had pledged that it would carry out five operations in revenge against the Zionists. So far, it has carried out four operations and a fifth one is expected. What imparts greater significance to the cessation of hostilities between Hamas and Fatah is the approach of the time when the security of the Gaza-Jericho autonomous regions is to be delegated to Palestinian police. Israel is very optimistic that the Zionist-Palestinian confrontation will be transformed into a Palestinian-Palestinian war.

However, the Palestinian Islamic Movement's sensitivity to this issue and its principled attention to confrontation with the Zionist regime has resulted in the closing of this path before such a calamity takes place. The PLO leaders hope that this agreement will result in halting Hamas operations in the autonomous Gaza-Jericho regions following the withdrawal, or in more precise terms, a rearrangement of the array of occupationist forces takes place, so that the struggle is transferred to other parts of the usurped territories.

It does not seem likely that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement believe in any boundaries as regards their anti-Zionist operations throughout the occupied territories. This has left some ambiguities in the accord but the PLO is well aware that without an agreement with Hamas it cannot administer these affairs. In any case, the negative reaction of the Zionist regime is in itself enough indication of the importance of such an agreement for the Palestinians.

Mubarak Visit to Persian Countries Said 'Noteworthy'

NC2504064994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, as part of a regional tour of the Persian Gulf and was welcomed by Saudi King Fahd. Before his visit to Saudi Arabia, Mubarak visited Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain and held talks with officials.

During the visit, Mubarak is discussing regional and Arab problems with the host countries. The Egyptian president and the countries' officials still place special emphasis on developments in the Persian Gulf and on the process of the Arab governments' talks with the Zionist regime.

The Egyptian president's visit to Persian Gulf countries is noteworthy. First, basically speaking, the Egyptian regime—especially during the Mubarak era—focuses special attention on the Persian Gulf in its regional policy. This interest stems largely from the Egyptian regime's economic desires for the Persian Gulf countries' wealth. Thus, this regime is always seeking a pretext to expand its relations with these countries and to score economic points through these relations.

After the Persian Gulf war, on the pretext of ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf's southern littoral countries, Egypt became one of the founders of the Damascus security pact, the six-plus-two pact, which failed because of its ambiguous and suspicious nature and because it lacked a specific identity. Since then, the Egyptian Government has constantly resorted to political intervention and propaganda efforts to create security tension in the Persian Gulf in a bid to ensure a base for itself. But apart from exporting manpower to Saudi Arabia to replace the 1.5-million-strong Yemeni manpower, which was ousted because of Yemen's political stance in the Persian Gulf, Egypt has been unable to achieve much.

The second noteworthy point in Mubarak's Persian Gulf tour is the link between this tour and the Persian Gulf's move to welcome the Zionist regime under the guise of multilateral sessions, the first of which was held in the Omani capital, Muscat, last week. The second such session is to be held in Qatar in a few days, while the third is to be held in Bahrain. The Egyptian regime is playing the role of middleman for a compromise between the occupying Zionist regime and Arab regimes and considers itself as having a special mission in this.

When the Muslim public is enraged with the direct or indirect establishment of ties and with publicizing these ties, Mubarak considers it his duty to support a compromise. It is noteworthy that Mubarak's tour coincides with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's departure for the region to activate the slow, heavy wheels of compromise. Some sources say that on the first leg of his tour, Christopher will visit the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and will hold a joint session on Wednesday morning with the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Another point that should not be ignored is the scheduling of Mubarak's visit, which is being carried out before the religious-political Hajj pilgrimage. Last year too the head of the Egyptian regime visited southern Persian Gulf states, most notably Saudi Arabia.

Political observers are considering the negative impacts of Mubarak's visit.

Downing of Helicopters Blamed on U.S. 'Incompetence'

NC2304162294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Apr 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The U.S. Troops' Nightmare!"]

[Text] The downing of two UN helicopters in northern Iraq—said to have been shot down by U.S. fighter planes by mistake—resulted in the killing of 26 high-level officers of the allied forces.

This incident has raised questions regarding the U.S. military command and their troops who have the most advanced tracking and identification equipment.

The lack of motivation and interest in military operations, and the disordered state of U.S. soldiers in other parts of the world are among the causes of such incidents.

The U.S. forces have the most advanced equipment at their disposal but they are becoming weaker by the day. These disasters can be attributed to the Somalia crisis and the Persian Gulf war. At present U.S. military capability in various operations all over the world is being questioned, and Pentagon officials have to respond to official inquiries into such disasters.

The incompetence of the U.S. forces becomes clearer when such incidents occur and this will certainly have an adverse impact on military relations between the United States and its allied countries.

The U.S. allies should review their military relations with Washington as a matter of course, especially if they wish to eliminate, or at least reduce, such incidents. U.S. military officials are also under pressure from their own people, who do not wish to see their offspring killed for the ideas of these officials.

In any case, in view of the increasing U.S. military intervention around the world, the frequency of such incidents will increase proportionately. Such incidents are possible in every part of the world where the U.S. troops are deployed.

Delegation Arrives in Washington for Bank, IMF Talks

LD2304092494 Tehran IRNA in English 0514 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohammad Khan arrived in Washington Friday to take part in the annual session of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mohammad Khan will also take part in several other meetings and sub-commissions on the sidelines of the IMF-WB joint meeting.

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Huseyn Adeli and a group of experts of Economy Ministry are accompanying the minister in his trip.

Attends Meeting of Developing States

LD2504083394 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 25, IRNA—Members of the Iranian economic delegation took part in the 50th official ministerial meeting of the Group 24 here Sunday. Present in the session were ministers of economy and governors of the central banks of the developing countries. The participants expressed hope for a favorable world economic prospect and discussed various financial and economic issues.

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli who heads the Iranian delegation to the meeting voiced developing countries' concern over the recent fluctuations in the price of raw materials, oil and gas in particular, and their negative impact on the programs for economic adjustment in those countries.

The Group 24 stressed that although there has been some improvement in the balance of payment of certain developing countries, the heavy repayment of foreign debts still imposes pressure on their financial situation.

In this connection, the developing countries called for more easy-term financial assistance and urged the industrial countries to open their markets to their export commodities. The Group 24 also called for the allocation of a new Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and underlined its importance in the establishment of economic adjustment in their countries.

They expressed satisfaction with the successful outcome of the Uruguay round and underscored its significance in increasing the volume of trade and accelerating world economic growth. They also warned against the negative impact of population growth on sustainable development of world economy.

Referring to the importance of investigation into the issue of refugees, the Iranian Central Bank governor reminded the necessity of international assistance to eliminate this major problem.

According to the statistics of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, due to the presence of foreign refugees Iran is shouldering more burden than other countries. The staistics showed that about 25 percent of the total world refugees are living in Iran.

Debt Payments to Denmark Rescheduled

LD2504082694 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—The governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli Sunday announced that Iran and Denmark have reached an agreement for rescheduling the payment of Iran's delayed debts.

'Adeli, who is currently in Washington D.C. to attend the joint session of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, told IRNA Sunday that Denmark has agreed to grant a credit of dlrs. 210 million to Iran for the payment of its debts including those scheduled for 1994-5.

Therefore, he added, the total debts of Iran to Denmark are rescheduled to be paid off within a period of six years, he said.

He also added that some of the German corporations have also agreed to reschedule the payment of German marks 520 million of Iran's debts.

Daily Views Dangers of Inflation

LD2304101294 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—A morning daily here Saturday [23 April] commented on the "existing spiraling" inflation in the country and said that there would be no social justice with a runaway inflation.

Referring to the fact that the uncontrolled inflation in Iran was a serious concern for both government and the people, 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said in its editorial that the officials are aware that nothing could weaken or erode the achievements of the Islamic revolution like a runaway inflation.

The damaging aspects of inflation could never be underestimated, the paper said, adding that, although material progress was not promised, social justice was, and at the heart of social justice lies an equitable distribution of resources and income.

Referring to the measures taken by the government to control inflation the paper said that more time was required before they could produce results.

It added that two points should be taken into consideration if remedy was desired: First, the country's economic problems "are partially political," secondly, irrespective of the changes in government policies, the desired economic performance would not be realized unless Iran's plans on privatization and joint venture investments have not been materialized.

Commentary on Additional Points to Khamene'i Remarks

NC2404211494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "An Important Warning"]

[Text] There were certain segments of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's speech on 13 April that were not carried by IRNA. In view of the importance of the warning by the great leader, we present the following points:

—Remain alert and vigilant in the trenches, because a wounded enemy is more furious.

—Their struggle gets more serious and fraught with anger the more unsuccessful they are.

—They are trying to tarnish the revolution; this is what is going on in the sphere of politics.

—Anyone in this country undertaking constructive activity or entrusted with some task should be alert and vigilant. The enemy has not been able to strike, but he has not given up hope.

—We should strengthen our strong points. Of course, we do have weak points that we should strive to eliminate, too.

—You can see that smugglers and other individuals who smuggle in videocassettes full of sex, erotic pictures, pornographic literature, magazines, or nude and titillating photographs are not truly earning their livelihood. I should state on the basis of my information that their livelihood comes from other sources. They have been assigned to propagate and popularize this quagmire of lust and immorality among the Iranian people, especially the youths and their families.

—Today, there are some who wield their pens in the same manner as those they see being favored and paid black money by the American CIA, which gives them a few dollars! They go ahead and write that the Iranian nation erred when it staged the revoluton. In this manner, they denigrate the greatest, most courageous, and inspiring action by the Iranian nation and say that the Iranian people regret they staged the revolution. May the hatred and disgust of the Iranian nation be upon such pens.

—We will collar the big powers in all parts of the world, as they are tyrants who oppose us, and we do not spare tyrants.

—We are not the kind of people or government that will ignore an aggressor or tyrant so that he can continue his work.

—Formerly, when the powers of arrogance came, they did so overtly and occupied a country. Today, they use more advanced means for dominating and usurping nations and their resources.

Pakistan

Bhutto Returns From Germany; Talks Detailed

BK2204112494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held wide-ranging talks with German leaders on various issues and informed them that bilateral talks between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute will not succeed until international pressure is mounted on India in this regard. According to Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, the prime minister informed the German leaders that Pakistan is not against bilateral talks, but our experiences from previous rounds of talks show that India is neither serious nor sincere in finding an acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute. The prime minister said the German leaders greatly appreciated Pakistan's efforts to establish peace in Bosnia. She held detailed talks with Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister of economic cooperation, on financial assistance to Pakistan. The German financial assistance and technical expertise will greatly help in overcoming the energy crisis in Pakistan. The prime minister stressed the need for changing the strategy on providing German economic assistance in order to make part of it available for annual development programs which will help implement welfare and development programs. The German minister informed Benazir Bhutto that his government has initiated steps under which a private company will provide [word indistinct] protection for German investment in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad early this morning after her four-day official visit to

Germany. When she left Berlin for home yesterday evening, she was accorded an extremely dignified send-off. [passage omitted]

Radio Pakistan's representative says the most important objective of the prime minister's visit to Germany was to acquire technical and financial assistance for welfare and development programs of the present government and to muster support and cooperation for Pakistan's stance on regional and international issues, including Kashmir, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan; there has been considerable success in achieving that objective. A high-level delegation of the German parliamentary Economic Committee will soon visit Pakistan to review development needs. Chancellor Kohl assured Benazir Bhutto that this committee and the ministries concerned will seriously consider her suggestions in order to give a positive response to them as soon as possible.

Radio Pakistan representative Yunus Khokar says the visit has created a better understanding between Germany and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and effectively exposed the human rights violations and Indian atrocities in Kashmir, which in turn has created sufficient sympathy from the German leaders and people to Pakistan's stand on Kashmiri people and the Kashmir issue. There was total coordination on the views and stand of the two countries on the Bosnian issue and lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government to enable it to defend its people against the savage Serb attacks. Germany lauded Pakistan's efforts for peace and normalizing the situations in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Somalia.

Bhutto's Aide Elected Leader of NWFP Assembly

BK2404085694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] Assembly held its session in Peshawar this morning with Mr. Abdul Akbar Khan in the chair as presiding officer. The house elected Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao as leader of the house. He secured 42 votes and none voting against. Speaking after his election as leaders of the house, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao thanked the assembly members for reposing confidence in him. He invited the opposition members for cooperation with the ruling alliance for smooth running of the business of the assembly. Earlier, the presiding officer, Mr. Abdul Akbar Khan, read out the governor's order asking the former leader of the house to prove his majority.

Mr. Akbar Hussain Shah in a resolution proposed that Mr. Sabir Shah should prove his majority, while Shahad Mohammad Khan seconded. (?As the) former leader of the house and members of the treasury benches had abstained from the proceedings, Pir Sabir Shah was declared unsuccessful in proving his majority. Later, the name of Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao was proposed in four identical resolutions for leadership of the house. He succeeded in obtaining 42 votes and was declared elected unopposed leader of the house.

The session was later prorogued.

Bhutto Defends Election

BK2404145294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The National Assembly today began discussion on the political developments in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] suspending all other business on the agenda. The motion to this effect was moved by the law minister, Syed Iqbal Haider. Initiating the debate, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, was critical of the government's action and announced that the opposition will boycott the proceedings of the house till the measures taken in the NWFP are withdrawn and a special committee of the house headed by an opposition member is set up to investigate into the Mehran Bank scandal. He then led a walkout by the members of the opposition.

Taking part in the debate, the law minister, Syed Iqbal Haider, explained in detail the circumstance that led to the present situation in the NWFP. He said steps taken in the provinces have been necessitated to protect and strengthen the democratic process, rule of law, and the Constitution. The basic issue in the NWFP is who enjoys majority. Only the majority has the right to rule the province. The law minister said the PDF [People's Democratic Front] emerged as the largest parliamentary alliance in the NWFP assembly following the October 1993 elections. [Former NWFP Chief Minister] Pir Sabir Shah, the law minister pointed out, formed the government in the province by purchase of loyalties, but could not satisfy the members who supported him. The PDF and independent members moved a vote of no-confidence against the chief minister in February when he lost the confidence of the majority. The law minister said tabling of the no-confidence motion was a constitutional step, but Mr. Sabir Shah did not face the motion in a democratic and constitutional manner. Syed Iqbal Haider said the order of the governor asking the chief minister to obtain a vote of confidence was perfectly within the ambit of the Constitution. It should have been implemented in a democratic way.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said with the election of the new leaders of the house in the NWFP assembly, sense of stability has surfaced in Pakistan's politics. The new leader of the house was elected following the delivery of verdict on the same issue by the Supreme Court and, therefore, the process contains no ambiguity, she said, adding the process has paved the way for strengthening democratic institutions and bringing about stability in the country. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said the opposition has reacted to the development in the NWFP by walking out from the provincial assembly. She said this is one of the methods of registering protests and it is the right of the opposition to protest, but we feel the rule of majorities is an important principle in parliamentary form of government.

When her attention was drawn toward the opposition's demand for constituting a house committee on the affairs of Mehran Bank with its chairman from the opposition benches, the prime minister said the nation has witnessed massive loot from Taj Company, investment companies, cooperatives, corporations, and Mehran Bank scandal. She said we are not dealing with the matter on individual basis. We have authorized the State bank to plug all financial irregularities whether they are committed by politicians or by other citizens.

Leghari, Bhutto Urge Afghan Leaders To End Differences

BK2404092094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have greeted President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on the occasion of the Islamic Revolution Day of Afghanistan. The president in his message said the people of Pakistan are proud that they stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their Afghan brethren in the difficult time of jihad. They are, however, deeply saddened that the fighting in Afghanistan continues. He appealed to the Afghan president to jointly take appropriate steps with other Afghan leaders so that a cease-fire is enforced immediately and the process of conciliation restarted.

The prime minister in her message to Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar said that the people of Pakistan are concerned with the continued fighting in Afghanistan, which is depriving them of the fruits of jihad. She called on the Afghan prime minister and other Afghan leaders to settle their differences politically by being flexible in approach and contemplation so that peace and stability are restored. She assured Pakistan's total support and cooperation in this respect.

Minister Reviews Foreign Policy

BK2504064494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan is pursuing a foreign policy based on national interests, which has the definite direction and the thrust to achieve major objectives. In an interview in Islamabad, he said the Kashmir issue has been internationalized in a successful manner and that initiatives have been taken for peace in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Such initiatives have also been taken regarding Somalia and Bosnia.

The foreign minister said Pakistan has been successful in securing U.S. agreement not to press for a rollback of its nuclear program. Reviewing the achievements of the present government in the foreign affairs, Asif Ali expressed the confidence that Pakistan will be able to acquire the F-16 aircraft without compromising its fundamental stand on nuclear nonproliferation. He said Pakistan has refused to accept any unilateral and discriminatory conditions on the nuclear issue.

Iraqi Speaker, Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

BK2404145794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] A four-member Iraqi parliamentary delegation led by the speaker of National Assembly, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, arrived in Islamabad today on a four-day official visit. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation said human rights of the Kashmiri people must be respected and the Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully. He said the purpose of his visit is to bring the people of the two countries closer to each other so that they could have better understanding.

Later, the speaker of National Assembly of Iraq called on his Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad. During the meeting, the two leaders agreed that closer cooperation among Muslim countries is required to face the challenges posed by the current world situation. They also discussed matters relating to establishment of IPU [Inter-Parliamentary Union] of Muslim countries, holding of a women parliamentarian conference, and establishment of friendship groups in their respective parliaments. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said the government and people of Pakistan were really distressed by the magnitude of suffering of the Iraqi people. He said there should be no restrictions on the supply of food and medicines to Iraqi people. The speaker of National Assembly of Iraq, Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, warmly reciprocated the views and feelings of Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. He appreciated the geopolitical importance of Pakistan and the role played by it in regional and world affairs.

Confer With Foreign Minister

BK2504055594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mhadi Salih, and his delegation called on Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad yesterday. The Iraqi speaker briefed the foreign minister on the difficulties being faced by the Iraqi people due to a serious scarcity of essential commodities. The foreign minister said we are fully aware of the current problems of the Iraqi brethren and Pakistan will do everything possible within the jurisdiction of the international law to mitigate their hardship.

Thirty-Five Injured in Grenade Attack on Mosque

BK2304135394 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Lahore, April 22—At least 35 Namazis including five children, were injured when two grenades exploded in the hall of a double storey mosque in Jiya Musa, one km from Shahdara here on Friday [22 April].

Eye-witnesses told The Muslim that the Namazis were offering dua [prayers] after performing Asr prayers at 5:20 pm in Jamia Masjid Mohammadia when two hand grenades exploded in the mosque hall. According to eye-witnesses three youth, who were riding a CD-70 motorcycle, hurled two grenades in the mosque from two different doors and disappeared.

Qari Saeed Mohammad, the Imam of the Mosque, and one of the injured, told The Muslim in Mayo Hospital that the mosque belonged to Sunni sect. When asked who could be behind this incident he said apparently it seemed an act of sectarianism, but added that terrorism could not be ruled out.

All the injured were rushed to the Mayo Hospital where they were given medical treatment. Seven of the injured were discharged after necessary medical aid while the remaining were still in the hospital. Their condition was stated to be out of danger.

Till the filing of this report, the concerned police had not registered any case against the unidentified culprits. [passage omitted]